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# GROOVE

KOREA • Issue 80 / June 2013

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## LOST *at* SEA

### 5 Islands to escape to this summer

Of some 4,200 islands surrounding the peninsula, intrepid travel editor Josh Foreman has selected 5 of the ones you don't want to miss.

### Korea — knowing when to leave

Editor-at-large John M. Rodgers revisits his decision to leave Korea, and ponders if he will ever return.

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# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

## THE HUBRIS OF HANSIK

## EDITORIAL

Have something to say?  
mattlamers@groovekorea.com

● Let's get something straight: Korean food is not healthy.

Some of it is, of course. And some of it is not. But many people in Korea seem to think all those bowls of ramyeon, all those sticks of processed fish, those rice cakes in sticky-sweet sauce, French-fry-encrusted corn dogs and pots of Spam soup its populace eats regularly don't count as Korean food. Korea's hansik hypocrites seem unable to examine their country's cuisine honestly.

Take hansik.org, for example. The website was created as part of the Hansik Globalization project begun by the Lee Myung-bak administration in 2009 to popularize Korean food overseas. Upon visiting the "What is Korean food?" section of the website, we are informed that:

1. Traditional Korean food is excellent, and Western food is not.
2. Men who eat Korean food show an "increase in sperm activity" compared to those who consume Western food.
3. Kimchi "prevents cancer and aging."

By "Western food," the cited study does not include the hundreds of thousands of traditional dishes from the thousands of cultures that comprise the West. It does not take into account the mixture of mushrooms, garlic, onion, chicken and red wine that is coq au vin or the stew of beans, tomatoes, celery and onion that is mine-stro-ne. In fact, Western food for the purposes of this study included pork cutlets and hamburgers, while Korean food included kimchi and bibimbap.

The absurdity of comparing the health benefits — including the activity of sperm — derived from the consumption of kimchi and hamburgers is beyond words. Unfortunately it is typical of government attempts to raise hansik's profile overseas. Korean food already enjoys great popularity internationally, but that has little, if anything, to do with the efforts of the government. In this case, the culprits are Cheonbuk National University and the Korean Food Foundation,

which falls under the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Of course if we compare the traditional cuisines of France, Italy, Greece and the U.S. with traditional Korean food, the results would show that, actually, all are nutritional and healthy. And if we compare traditional French, Italian, Greek and American cuisine to the hyper-processed junk that comprises much of the modern Korean diet, the results would show that, actually, Western food is much healthier than Korean food.

As for the cancer claim, let's face facts: unfortunately Korea has one of the highest cancer death rates in the world, and out of the 33 countries comprising the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Korea ranks 13th in cancer deaths per 100,000 people.

We're not even going to address the sperm claim.

The point of this editorial is not to bash Korean food and the people who love it. Traditional Korean food is healthy, unique, bold, colorful and exciting. To taste mool nangmyeon, with its icy, vinegary broth, chewy noodles, and shredded cucumber and pear, is to taste the distinctive deliciousness of Korean cuisine. The point is that Korea should start examining its cuisine and the cuisines of other cultures honestly. Korea is rapidly falling into the (yes, Western) trap of binging on factory-farmed meat and processed garbage (see Shelley DeWees's analysis on Page 36). While processed food may be a Western invention, French-fry-encrusted corn dog is uniquely Korean.

Once again, let's get something straight. Every culture on Earth has its own healthy, traditional cuisine, Korea included. Korean food is great, but it's not superior to other cuisines. So let's stop talking about hansik like it is, and start thinking critically about what hansik is becoming.

GROOVE

HOT ON: [WWW.GROOVEKOREA.COM](http://WWW.GROOVEKOREA.COM)

## Insight

### Can Shamanism survive in modern Jeju?

After seven years in Jeju, Nashville native Giuseppe Rositano took an interest in the island's fast-disappearing Shamanistic traditions. Armed with a video camera and conversational Korean, Rositano spent a year and half in local villages collecting 500 hours of raw material.

His Kickstarter for the project shot past its \$4,000 goal and Rositano is now heading into post-production.

He took some time to speak with Groove Korea about tradition, possession and his debut documentary, "At Search for Spirits on the Island of Rocks, Wind and Women."

Story by Timothy Cushing

Read it online in June  
or in print in July.

## Insight

### Korean women during colonization

In pre-colonial Korea, women were controlled by their husbands and husbands' families in adherence to the strict tenants of neo-Confucianism. The wife was to be strictly subservient to her husband. Japanese colonialism only provided a surface-level change for Korean women. In spite of industrialization during the colonial period, most women still found themselves in a subjugated position, having simply moved from one form of subservience to another.

Groove sat down with Dr. Jun Yoo, associate professor of History at the University of Hawaii — Manoa to discuss the roles of women under Japanese Colonialism.

Story by Walter J. Stucke

Read it online in June  
or in print in July.



Penélope Cruz, Palacio Marqués de Villafranca  
Madrid, November 2012



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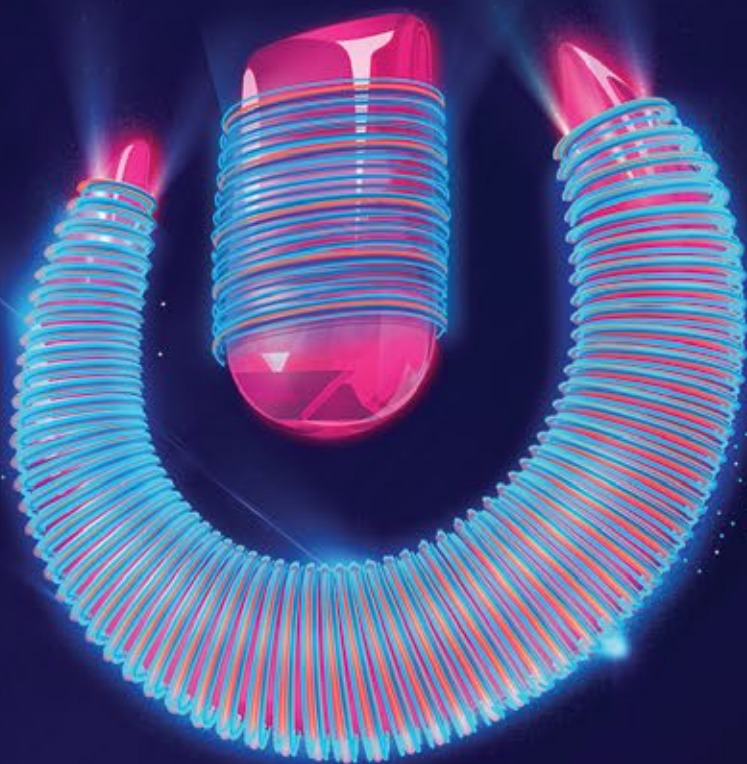
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VAN BUUREN**

DAY 01

**AVICII**

DAY 02

**carl COX**

DAY 01 / 02

**KASKADE**

DAY 01

DAY 01 **FRIDAY JUNE 14**

DAY 02 **SATURDAY JUNE 15**

*tommytrash*

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# ISSUE 80

# JUNE 2013

## DESTINATIONS



56

### LAKE KANAS, CHINA

Lake Kanas was named "China's most beautiful natural wonder." And with some encouragement from my fellow tourists, who were Chinese locals, I set my sights on visiting the famed lake.

## DESTINATIONS



42

### LOST AT SEA: FIVE ISLAND JOURNEYS

Join our travel editor on a journey to five of the beautiful islands scattered around the peninsula. Some are well known, like Ulleungdo, while others are off the beaten track, like Baengnyeongdo and the Japanese island of Tsushima.

## WELCOME

### 6 - THE HUBRIS OF HANSIK

Comparing kimchi to hamburgers — someone actually did it.

### 18 - THE INBOX

Opinions and feedback from readers.

### 18 - KEY PEOPLE

Introducing some of the editors, writers and photographers behind June's issue.

### 20 - MUST READS

A selection of our editors' favorite articles

### 22 - WHAT'S ON

16 festivals, countless concerts, happy hours, networking opportunities and events for every day of the month in June.

### 26 - IN THE NEWS

Landmark ruling: Man jailed for raping wife, Blue House spokesman flees U.S. in sex scandal, English teacher extradited to America, pot-smoking celebrities charged

### 28 - ITAEWON FINDS

Shopping tips for Itaewon

### 30 - GAROSUGIL FINDS

Shopping tips for Garosugil

### 41 - HOROSCOPE

What June has in store for you.

## INSIGHT

### 32 - SIGH OF RELIEF FOR INVESTORS

The plan had been to raise the minimum capital requirement from 100 million won to 300 million won. Those concerned were asked to voice their opinions — but I never thought for a moment that the government would actually change course.

### 34 - KOREA — KNOWING WHEN TO LEAVE

I climbed the narrow stairs to the small rooftop garden with that cityscape sprawled out before me; my city, I thought, my home. But for the rest of my life?

### 36 - KOREA'S OBESITY ABYSS

Modern life in Korea means modern food, Western food, convenient food. But that comes with consequences.

## FOOD & DRINK

### 62 - INDO-MEX

One Hyehwa eatery tries a unique fusion concept — and succeeds.

### 64 - JUST SAY NO

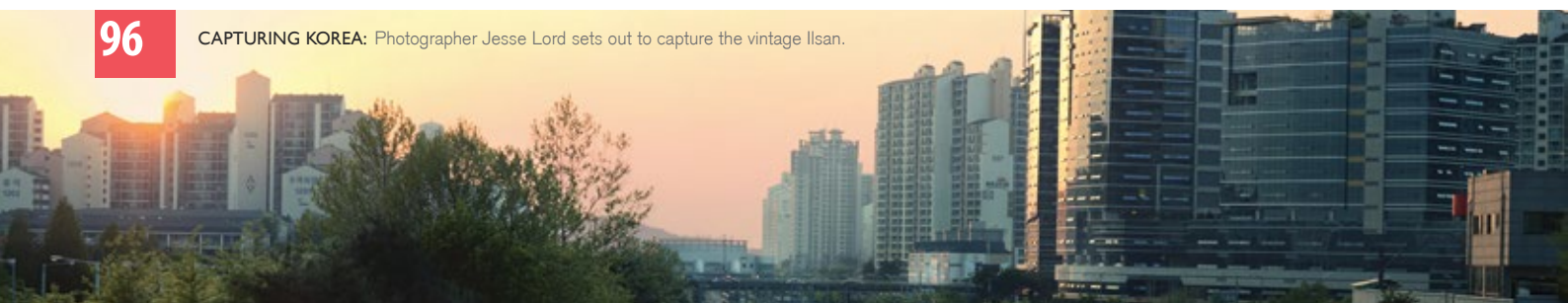
Reilly's says "no thanks" to bad beer, and encourages you to follow suit.

### 66 - THE BOOTH

Seoul has a hot new drinking spot. Situated in the same alley as Magpie and El Greco's, The Booth has everything you need for a day or night on the town — pizza and beer in a funky setting.

96

CAPTURING KOREA: Photographer Jesse Lord sets out to capture the vintage Ilsan.







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# ISSUE 80

# JUNE 2013

## MUSIC & ARTS



### ON JEJU, A HAVEN FOR ROCK 'N' ROLL

A character all its own, and it's more than rolling hills and crisp blue seas.

## DESTINATIONS



### 12 FLIGHTS FOR UNDER \$300

June has arrived with ultra-cheap flights: We've put together a list of 10 international and two domestic destinations that are within reach for \$300 or less, round-trip — including tax. Take your pick from places in Japan, China, the Philippines and even Thailand.

## GA MUSIC & ARTS

### 72 - A SLEDGEHAMMER OF SOUND

Groove Korea had the opportunity to sit down with the members of Used Cassettes to discuss their sound, the Korean music scene and their band's future. They perform June 28 at Prism with Juck Juck Grunzie and Vidulgi Ooyoo.

### 74 - KOREA ROCKS ... IN THE U.K.

Galaxy Express, Apollo 18, Goonam and Gate Flowers talk about their eight-concert tour through England and Wales from April 24 to May 5. It included festival appearances at Focus Wales and Liverpool Sound City, and club shows in Tunbridge Wells, London and Manchester.

### 80 - ARTIST'S JOURNEY

Artist's Journey's Alison Hjelseth sat down with FraiseVinyl, an erotic photographer, videographer and performance artist, to talk erotic art, the power of burlesque and breaking taboos.

### 82 - AT THE BOX OFFICE

Man of Steel (June 13)  
After Earth (June 30)

### 83 - KOREAN DVD CORNER

Pieta (피에타)  
Breath (숨)

## GA COMMUNITY

### 84 - HOSPITALS ARE BATTLEFIELDS

'The Orderly,' a play from N.Z., blends the world of the hospital with that of an ancient battlefield. It arrives on Korean shores for six shows from June 21 to 30.

### 86 - DIVE IN WITH DEEP BLUE QUEST

Russell Krogh came to Korea more than 25 years ago, first as a soldier, then as a college professor. He opened Deep Blue Quest in Paju in 2003. It is the only English-speaking five-star PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) Instructor Development Center in Korea.

### 88 - DENTIST FOR KIDS

There's lots to learn before you take your tykes on their first trip to the dentist.

## GA DISTRACTIONS

### 90 - GROOVE LISTINGS

Our listings pages have you covered for everything from doctors and travel agencies to restaurants and hotels.

### 101 - HOTEL NEWS

A selection of deals at Korea's leading hotels.

### 104 - COMICS

"Things I love about Korea."

### 105 - GAMES

Complete the puzzles and email a photo to mattlamers@groovekorea.com for a chance to win a free meal at a restaurant.

### 106 - PHOTO CHALLENGE

May's challenge: capturing spring

70

**DISCOVER YOUR DARK SIDE:** Their unique sound has often been described as doomgaze — a combination of doom metal and shoegaze. Catch their cinematic sounds in concert when they tour Korea from June 4 to 8.





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by **HAND**



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# THE INBOX

Opinions and feedback from readers.

## RE: "DEAR KOREA, I STILL DON'T HAVE AIDS"

You people (Groove Korea) are exactly the reason why Americans and other foreigners are hated all over the world. You think you are being creative, insightful and liberal. You are not. You want to change Korea. Why? If you miss your own country so much then go home. Otherwise be quiet, do your job and assimilate into Korean culture. You people make me wretch!

— **Marvin Thacker**

Just more foreigners complaining about something that is done in many other countries including — wait for it — Canada. And other visa holders have to get the test as well in Korea. Most people who come to Korea to teach are majorities in their respective countries, and (the HIV/AIDS testing) is something that is really not a big deal at all but is cited as "racism." (Laugh out loud.) Focus on real human rights issues instead of a five-minute blood test.

— **"Learn Some Damn Manners"**

Statistically speaking, foreign teachers in Korea most definitely do not have higher rates of STDs than Korean citizens. Not only that, but foreign teachers have a significantly lower crime rate than that of Korean citizens. That's been true since well before they started checking criminal records, and it's still true today. The story basically says that the anti-American military sentiment has shifted to foreign teachers, and it would be hard to debate that isn't the case.

Statistically speaking, there's simply no reason to treat foreign teachers as drug addicted, womanizing, AIDS-infested goons as is common in the media here. Are there a few bad apples? No doubt. Last (month) a Korean teacher physically assaulted a student before masturbating in the hallway. While it's true that Koreans have every right to screen foreign teachers for drugs and criminal history, it would be wiser to focus more attention on those who are committing the crimes against Korean students. It's not foreign teachers.

— **"Netizen 2318"**

## RE: "RAISE YOUR VOICE, THEN YOUR GLASS"

If you want more information regarding Toastmasters and what it can do for you, please go to [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org). Or you can e-mail me at [giordan-1111@hotmail.com](mailto:giordan-1111@hotmail.com).

— **Giordan Benavides**

## RE: "LEARNING COFFEE KOREAN"

What I really want to know is how to order specialty drinks at Starbucks... How do you say Café Misto and London Fog in Korean?

— **Sarah Williamson**

I laughed out loud while reading this. Thanks for the tips!

— **Bruce E. Screws Jr.**

## RE: "THE LONELIEST GRAVEYARD ON EARTH"

Great article. Thanks for providing some reporting that is free of agenda. And good for the Mukgyegeosa Sunim for having the courage to do what he does. The dead deserve respect, too, no matter what side of the border they grew up on.

— **Jo Lee**

# KEY PEOPLE

Introducing some of the editors, writers and photographers behind June's issue.



**Felix Im**

U.S.

Felix was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. After graduating from the University of Colorado with an English degree, he rushed to Seoul to bury himself in Korean newspapers, magazines and books for nearly two years with limited social contact. He likes classical music and café hopping in Seoul. Felix writes stories for Groove's Music & Arts section.

**Timothy Cushing**

U.S.

Raised in New England, Tim has spent time writing, running and making music all over the United States, with stints in New York City, Asheville, North Carolina, and Louisville, Kentucky. He moved to Jeju in 2011 and has been in Korea ever since. For more of his writing and music, plus a video of him in various animal costumes, visit [www.timothycushing.com](http://www.timothycushing.com). Tim wrote the article "On Jeju, a haven for rock 'n' roll."



**Jenny Na**

U.S.

Jenny is a Korean adoptee with an interest in human rights and social justice issues. Outside of that, she's in the kitchen making blended beverages, in the yoga studio, at the pool, or at the computer planning her next trip to oceans near and far. Jenny is Groove Korea's Community Editor.



**Britney Dennison**

Canada

Britney is currently pursuing a Master of Journalism degree at the University of British Columbia. As a former teacher, she couldn't resist an opportunity to return to Seoul and try her hand in the magazine industry. She is also an avid traveler and a photography enthusiast. Britney is an intern at Groove Korea. She wrote the article "12 flights for under \$300."



**Shelley DeWees**

U.S.

Originally from Montana, Shelley worked as a vegan chef for a Buddhist monastery before moving to Seoul. She loves British literature and drinks lots of craft beer — the effects of which she counteracts by running 40 miles a week. She's currently writing a book about marathon training on a vegan diet. She wrote the article "Korea's obesity abyss."







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# MUST READS

## A SIGH OF RELIEF FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS

Page 32

Seoul has backed down from its plans to triple the cost of investment visas, which called for raising the minimum capital requirement from 100 million won to 300 million won. It seemed all but inevitable that the plan would go through, but thankfully the government listened and reversed its decision.



## KOREA — KNOWING WHEN TO LEAVE

Page 34

I climbed the narrow stairs to the small rooftop garden with that cityscape sprawled out before me; my city, I thought, my home. But for the rest of my life? And that is when I decided that I could live in Korea forever. Korea no longer fit the definition of a foreign country. It was home.



## LOST AT SEA: FIVE ISLAND JOURNEYS

Page 44

Join our travel editor on a journey to five beautiful islands scattered around the peninsula. Some are well known, like Ulleungdo, while others are off the beaten track, like Baengnyeongdo and the Japanese island of Tsushima. If you're planning an island retreat, start your reading here.



## 12 FLIGHTS FOR UNDER \$300

Page 36

Looking to get away for summer but don't want to break the bank? We've put together a list of 10 international and two domestic destinations that are within reach for just \$300 or less, round-trip — including tax. Take your pick from places in Japan, China, the Philippines and even Thailand.



## INDO-MEX

Page 62

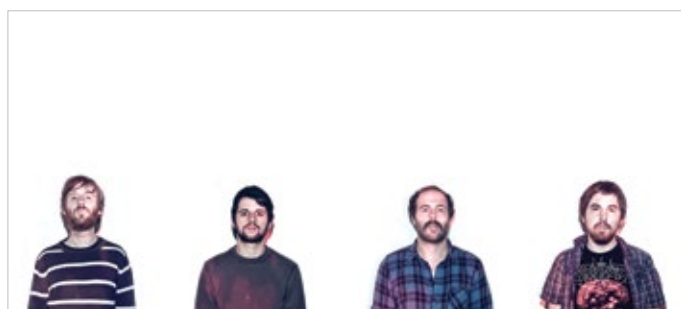
In a city with tens of thousands of restaurants, the concept of fusion food is no longer revolutionary. Indeed, it seems like every restaurant from your local jjigae joint to bigger chains like Lotteria is adding the word "fusion" to its menu — and then failing miserably at making fusion food. Then there's Simply India.



## DISCOVER YOUR DARK SIDE

Page 70

This Will Destroy You's guitar and distortion elicit powerful, cathartic responses from both the artist and audience. Their latest album, Tunnel Blanket, explores the darker side of the emotional spectrum and debuted at No. 25 on Billboard. We had a chat with them ahead of their Korean tour, which falls June 4 to 8.





# COVER

## LOST AT SEA

Of some 4,200 islands surrounding the peninsula, intrepid travel editor Josh Foreman has selected five of the ones you don't want to miss.

Pictured on the cover is Baekdo.

See the full story on Page 44



Cover photo by Yu Soil, Copyright by Korea Tourism Organization / Design by Daniel Sanchez

## Our past three issues:



May 2013

Interview: Jasmine Lee  
The end of Korea  
Get in shape for summer



April 2013

End HIV teacher testing  
30 festivals for April  
Korea's temples



March 2013

Is Korea's EFL failing?  
Seoul's best bulgogi  
Taboos and tattoos



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# WHAT'S ON

## 1 - Saturday

Festival: Asia Metal Fest @ Rolling Hall, Seoul; June 1-2; [facebook.com/asiametalfestival](https://facebook.com/asiametalfestival)

Tour: "The Imjin River: The Korean War's Thermopylae" @ Paju; tour leader Andrew Salmon; 9 am; [raskb.com](http://raskb.com)

Network: Queen's birthday Ball @ Grand Ambassador Hotel Seoul; 6:30 pm; 245,000 won; RSVP [qbbtickets@yahoo.com](mailto:qbbtickets@yahoo.com)

## 2 - Sunday

Festival: Last day of the International Rose Festival Gokseong @ Gokseong-gun, Jeollanam-do; [simcheong.com](http://simcheong.com)

Festival: Busan International Dance Festival @ Haeundae Beach, Busan Cultural Center; May 31-June 4; [eng.bidf.kr](http://eng.bidf.kr)

Concert: The 4 Cellists @ Sejong Center for the Performing Arts; 5 pm; [sejongpac.or.kr/eng](http://sejongpac.or.kr/eng)

## 3 - Monday

Festival: Muju Firefly Festival @ Traditional Arts Theme Park, Jinam Park; June 1-9; [english.firefly.or.kr](http://english.firefly.or.kr)

Food: Wing night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Mondays); [craftwork-staphouse.com](http://craftwork-staphouse.com)

Lecture: AM-CHAM-OTC Derivatives @ Grand Ambassador, Chardonnay Room; 9:30 am; RSVP [amchamsvp@amchamkorea.org](mailto:amchamsvp@amchamkorea.org)

## 4 - Tuesday

Happy hour: All-you-can-drink beer 6-8 pm; 10,000 won @ Big Rock in Gangnam; Monday, Tuesday; [bigrock-beer.co.kr](http://bigrock-beer.co.kr)

Food: Pasta night @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Tuesdays); [craftwork-staphouse.com](http://craftwork-staphouse.com)

FREE STUFF: Email the Groove crossword to [matlammers@groovekorea.com](mailto:matlammers@groovekorea.com) and win 25,000 won

## 5 - Wednesday

Box office: "Stand Up Guys" opens across Korea; comedy, rated R

Network: June Coffee Morning with Seoul International Women's Association; 12 pm; RSVP [treasurer@siwapage.com](mailto:treasurer@siwapage.com)

## 6 - Thursday

Comedy: Stand-up Seoul @ Rocky Mountain Tavern in Itaewon; 9 pm; [rockymountain-tavern.com](http://rockymountain-tavern.com); 1st Thursday of month

Tour: "Yeongsan-jae Buddhist Ceremony" @ Bongwon-sa; tour leader Professor David A. Mason; 9 am; [raskb.com](http://raskb.com)

## 7 - Friday

Festival: Rainbow Island music festival @ Nami Island; Travis, Nell, Day Break etc; English booking info @ [vuent.co.kr](http://vuent.co.kr)

Festival: Hansan Ramie Fabric Cultural Festival @ Hansan Ramie Fabric Hall, Seochcheon-gun; June 6-9; [seocheon.go.kr/festival](http://seocheon.go.kr/festival)



"Man of Steel" open across Korea on June 13. Go to Page 82 for Groove's preview.

## 8 - Saturday

Concert: This Will Destroy You @ Rolling Hall in Seoul; go to Page 70 for Groove Korea's interview.

Festival: Taebaek-san Mountains Royal Azalea Festival @ Mt. Taebaeksan Provincial Park; June 8-9; [festival.taebaek.go.kr](http://festival.taebaek.go.kr)

## 9 - Sunday

Festival: Million People Walking Festival of Namsan @ Namsan Fountain Plaza; 10 am; [seoulwalking.or.kr](http://seoulwalking.or.kr)

Musical: Camarata Music Company presents "The Wizard of Oz" @ 4 pm on June 9, 16, 23; [tickets@camarata-music.com](mailto:tickets@camarata-music.com)

## 10 - Monday

Festival: Haeundae Sand Festival @ Haeundae Beach in Busan; June 6-10; [sandfestival.haeundae.go.kr](http://sandfestival.haeundae.go.kr)

Festival: Last day of Jeonju Daesaseup Festival @ Jeonju Hanok Village area; June 7-10; [jjdss.or.kr](http://jjdss.or.kr)

## 11 - Tuesday

Network: AM-CHAM June Networking Night @ Grand Hyatt, Water Pool Garden; 6:30 pm; RSVP [amchamsvp@amchamkorea.org](mailto:amchamsvp@amchamkorea.org)

Lecture: Yongye kunin and North Korean national identity @ Residents' Lounge, Somerset Palace; 7:30 pm; [raskb.com](http://raskb.com)

## 12 - Wednesday

Concert: Hel-loween, Gamma Ray @ V-Hall in Hongdae; 7:30 pm; 99,000 won;

Dance: National Dance Company of Korea presents "Dance, Chunhyang" @ National Theatre of Korea; 8 pm; [ntok.go.kr](http://ntok.go.kr)

## 13 - Thursday

Festival: Gangneung Danje Festival @ Namdaecheon Stream, Danojang; June 7-16; [danjefestival.or.krbigrockbeer.co.kr](http://danjefestival.or.krbigrockbeer.co.kr)

Culture: Folk painting @ Ara Art Center with Milly Kim; 10,000 won; 10:30 am; meet at Anguk Station, exit 6; RSVP by June 11; [siwapage.com](http://siwapage.com)

## 14 - Friday

Festival: Ultra Music Festival @ Seoul Olympic Stadium; June 14-15; Afrojack, Armin Van Buuren, etc; [www.umfkorea.com](http://www.umfkorea.com)

Pro baseball: LG vs. Nexen @ Jamsil; 6:30 pm; [mykbo.net](http://mykbo.net)

Galaxy Express perform at V-Hall on June 1. Read the story on Page 74.



## 15 - Saturday

Festival: Muse In City music festival @ Olympic Park; Lee Hyori, Lisa Ono; [ticket.interpark.com/Global](http://ticket.interpark.com/Global)

Concert: release party for Crying Nut's new album @ Interpark Art Center Art Hall; 7 pm;

## 16 - Sunday

Parade: Hi Seoul Bike Parade from Gwanghwamun Plaza ~ Sangam World Cup Park; [hiseoulbike.com](http://hiseoulbike.com)

Tour: "Old Incheon: A Walk through History since 1876" @ Incheon; tour leader Dr. Robert J. Fouser; 6:30 pm; [raskb.com](http://raskb.com)

Box office: "Man of Steel" open across Korea; action; rated PG-13; go to Page 82 for Groove Korea's preview

Box Office: "The Dyatlov Pass Incident!" open across Korea; thriller; rated R

## 17 - Monday

Food: 5,000 won off Wolfhound's burger; [facebook.com/Wolfhound-Pub](https://facebook.com/Wolfhound-Pub); Mondays

Drinks: Mexican night @ Sam Ryan's in Itaewon; [samryans.com](http://samryans.com); Mondays



For suggestions or comments,  
email [talentlay@groovekorea.com](mailto:talentlay@groovekorea.com)

\*All the events published in this calendar are subject to unforeseen changes by the promoters. Groove Korea does not take responsibility for any misunderstandings or third party damage.

# Ultra Music Festival @ Seoul Olympic Stadium; June 14-15

## 18 - Tuesday

Wing night: @ Rocky Mountain Tavern in Itaewon; 6:30 pm; rocky-mountaintavern.com; Tuesdays

Happy hour: All-you-can-drink beer 6-8 pm; 10,000 won @ Big Rock in Gangnam; Monday, Tuesday; bigrock-beer.co.kr

Food: Mini Burger Day @ Yaletown in Sinchon; get extra burg with order; yaletown-seoul.com; Tuesdays

## 19 - Wednesday

Network: Wine Down Wednesdays @ Sam Ryan's in Itaewon; samryans.com; 5-10 pm; Wednesdays

Standup: comedy (Wednesdays) @ Tony's in Itaewon; tonysitaewon.com

Wing night: @ Dillinger's in Itaewon; dillingers-bar@gmail.com; 400 won wings; Wednesdays

## 20 - Thursday

Box office: "World War Z" opens across Korea; action; rated PG-13

Dance: "Korean dance" @ National Theater of Korea, Haneul Youth Theater; June 20-21; 11 am; ntok.go.kr

Pro baseball: Doosan vs. Doosan @ Lotte; 6:30 pm; mykbo.net

## 21 - Friday

Festival: Gwangju Toechon Tomato Festival @ Toechon-myeon Jeongji-ri Event Hall; June 21-23; tomato.gjcity.go.kr

Concert: 2PM @ Jamsil Indoor Stadium; June 21 and 22; 8 pm; 77,000-99,000 won; ticket.interpark.com/Global

## 22 - Saturday

Festival: Dae-gu International Musical Festival @ Main theaters and stages in downtown Daegu; June 21-23; dimf.or.kr

Musical: Camarata Music Company presents "The Wizard of Oz" @ 2 pm on June 8, 15, 22; tickets@camarata-music.com

## 23 - Sunday

Quiz night: @ Rocky Mountain Tavern in Itaewon; 6:30 pm; rocky-mountaintavern.com; Sundays

Booze: Bud Night @ Yaletown in Sinchon; 400 CC for 3,500 won; yaletown-seoul.com; Sundays

## 24 - Monday

Social: Open mic @ Tony's in Itaewon (Mondays); tonysitaewon.com

Food: Wing special @ at Yaletown in Sinchon; 10 wings for 4,000 won; facebook.com/yaletownjason; Mondays



This Will Destroy You preforms at Rolling Hall in Seoul. Go to Page 70 for Groove Korea's interview.

## 25 - Tuesday

Food: 2-For-1 fish & chips @ Wolfhound (Tuesdays); wolfhoundpub.com

Lecture: Christianity, American Missionaries, and Korean Immigration to the U.S. @ Residents' Lounge, Somerset Palace; 7:30 pm; raskb.com

Food: BBQ Rib Night @ Sam Ryan's in Itaewon; samryans.com; 5-10 pm; Tuesdays

Food: 1/2 price burgers @ Dillinger's in Itaewon; dillingers-bar@gmail.com; Tuesday

## 26 - Wednesday

Quiz night: @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong (Wednesdays); craftwork-staphouse.com

Happy Hour: 3,000 won off JD, Finland vodka @ DOJO in Itaewon; Wednesdays

Quiz night: @ Beer O'Clock in Sinchon (Wednesdays); facebook.com/beeroclockkorea

**FREE STUFF:** Email the Groove crossword to [mat-tlamers@groovekorea.com](mailto:mat-tlamers@groovekorea.com) and win 25,000 won

## 27 - Thursday

Food: Wing Night @ Wolfhound in Itaewon; 4,000 won for 10 wings; facebook.com/WolfhoundPub

Quiz night: @ Dillinger's in Itaewon; 9 pm; dillingers-bar@gmail.com; Thursdays

Wing night: @ Phillies Pub in Haeboncheon; Thursdays; facebook.com/pages/Phillies-pub

Ticket Tip: Go to ticket.interpark.com/Global to purchase tickets for ongoing musicals

## 28 - Friday

Happy Hour: 2,000 won off beer/wine @ Craftworks in Noksapyeong; 4-6 pm; craftwork-staphouse.com

Pro baseball: LG vs. SK @ Jamsil; 6:30 pm; mykbo.net

Pro baseball: NC vs. Doosan @ Changwon; 6:30 pm; mykbo.net

## 29 - Saturday

Booze: Vodka Night @ Yaletown in Sinchon; bottle of 5 Lakes Russian Vodka for 39,000 won; yaletown-seoul.com



Used Cassettes preform June 28 with Juck Juck Grunzie. Read the story on Page 72.

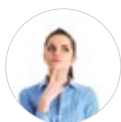
## 30 - Sunday

Box office: "After Earth" opens across Korea; action; rated PG-13; go to Page 82 for Groove Korea's preview



# Everything you need to know about TOPIK

The Test of Proficiency in Korean, or TOPIK for short is a Korean language exam that is administered by the Korean government. It's essentially the Korean Language equivalent of TOEFL in the United States.



## > Who can take TOPIK?

Anyone can take the test. Basically, TOPIK is open to all those who wish to take the test, as long as you have a valid ID such as your passport, alien registration card, Korean driver's license, and Korean identification card. However, the test is designed specifically for non-native Korean speakers and overseas ethnic Koreans.



## > So the number of the applicants exceeds 1 million?

Yes. It has been 17 years since the first TOPIK was conducted. The first year TOPIK was only conducted once, but Korea's stature has been increasing, so there is more interest in the Korean language overseas.



## > How do I use the certificate and the TOPIK score?

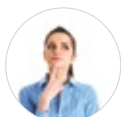
If you want to live and work in Korea, it's important to understand the Korean language. A TOPIK certificate is practical for Korean Government Scholarship Program (KGSP), Samsung, LG Electronics and for those who wish to enter Korean universities as non-native Korean speakers and overseas ethnic Koreans etc.

It also helps to know where you stand on your Korean language ability.



## > I'm going back home (to Canada) soon. Can I take the test in other countries?

TOPIK is an international test. There are 194 sites where you can take it in 61 countries all over the world. The number of test sites has been increasing every year. You can find the test site nearest you by checking out the website, [www.topik.go.kr](http://www.topik.go.kr), or you can ask the Korean embassy/consulate in your home country.



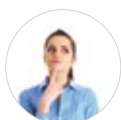
## > What should I study for TOPIK? What do you suggest for studying TOPIK?

There are two periods in TOPIK. The first period has Vocabulary, Grammar, and Writing. The second period has Listening and Reading. You can download the previous TOPIK questions on the website. [www.topik.go.kr](http://www.topik.go.kr). You can also study at [www.studytopik.go.kr](http://www.studytopik.go.kr)



## > I'd like to take the upcoming test. When is it?

It's July 21st in Korea only. The registration period will be from June 12th to June 25th. Please don't forget that the TOPIK team is very strict about the deadline. Make sure you don't miss the registration time. You can also refer to the website for the schedule of the October test.



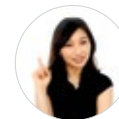
## > How do I apply for the test?

If you'd like to take the test in Korea, You can apply online only. Please check out the English version on the website and if you have difficulties applying, feel free to call 02-3668-1339(English). We can help you with a remote support system online.



## > How much is the test fee?

It's 40,000 won in Korea. The fee varies when TOPIK is taken in other countries. You can get more specific information at the Korean Embassy or consulate abroad.



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# KOREA JOONGANG DAILY

In association with **International Herald Tribune**

NATIONAL NEWS with **GROOVE**

June 2013 / [www.koreajoongangdaily.com](http://www.koreajoongangdaily.com)

## LANDMARK RULING

# MAN JAILED FOR RAPING WIFE

The nation's highest court found a 46-year-old man guilty in the country's first marital rape conviction. In the landmark ruling, the Supreme Court upheld the high court conviction against the man for three counts of spousal rape. The husband was convicted of threatening his wife with a knife and raping her.

The husband, only identified as Kang, was found guilty of marital rape in the initial trial and was ordered to serve six years in prison. In his first appeal, he was once again convicted, but the Seoul High Court lowered the punishment to three years and six months.

He still took the case to the Supreme Court, appealing that a wife cannot be a victim of rape under the Korean criminal code.

While marital rape has been punished in major Western countries including the United States, Germany and France for decades, Korea, like many other Asian countries, had granted a marital exemption, but the ruling set a new precedent.

The Supreme Court also upheld the lower court's

decision to jail him for three years and six months for the crime. His personal information will also be made available to the public for seven years, and he was ordered to wear an electronic ankle for 10 years once he completes his prison term.

Until now, the courts have handed down a handful of spousal rape convictions, but those couples' marriages were invalidated in some way during the legal procedure.

The ruling marked the first conviction of a rape between a husband and wife who are maintaining the marriage throughout the legal process.

"It is significant because the ruling focused on protecting the right to sexual autonomy for the wife and reflected the changed perceptions toward marriage and sex," a Supreme Court official said.

Kang was married to the victim in 2001 and the couple has two children.

In 2011, the husband used a kitchen knife to threaten his wife and raped her after they had an altercation.

Two more rapes accompanied by armed threats

took place after that, and the wife's family filed a complaint to the prosecution later that year. Kang was investigated and prosecuted in November 2011.

Taking into account the legal significance and sensitivity of the case, the Supreme Court made a rare move by holding a hearing last month and listened to the two sides' arguments.

The ruling also set a precedent that a wife is included in the definition of "female" in a rape charge. Article 297 of the criminal code said, "A person who, through violence or intimidation, has sexual intercourse with a female, shall be punished by limited imprisonment for not less than three years."

Two charges of spousal rape reached the Supreme Court before this case, but the court acquitted the suspect in the first case in 1970, granting him a marital exemption.

In another case in 2009, the man was convicted of the crime, but the couple had already agreed to a divorce, so it was not seen as a marital rape.

## COURTS TELL MEN: KEEP HANDS TO YOURSELVES

Korean men with wandering hands had better watch out. The country's courts are starting to strictly punish wayward behavior. A case in point is the five-month prison term awarded to Suh Jong-ryeol, former president of the state-run Korea Internet Security Agency, who was indicted on charges of sexually harassing his secretary. Suh was accused of hugging his secretary, whose identity has not been disclosed, from behind and kissing her on the back of her neck.

Suh claimed he didn't mean to hug her but simply intended to pat her on the back as a sign of encouragement. He said he "stumbled" and his forehead touched the back of the secretary's neck. A court didn't buy it.

Legal analysts say Korean courts are more sensitive than ever to women facing unwanted physical advances.

Judge Kim Tae-kyu at the Busan District Court sentenced a 52-year-old defendant surnamed Choi to 10 months in prison in April and immediately put him behind bars after trial for forcibly hugging a karaoke hostess. The 10-month prison term was heavier than the six months requested by the prosecution.

In an even more remarkable case, a 48-year-old company worker in Ulsan surnamed Han had an extramarital affair with a 27-year-old coworker surnamed Choi. They had sex once a week. But the relationship suffered when Han insisted on sex when Choi didn't want it. After he forced himself on her, Choi told him she wanted to end the affair. Choi went public and filed a rape complaint. The Seoul Central District Court concurred in May 2012 and sentenced Han to 30 months in jail.

## BLUE HOUSE SPOKESMAN FLEES U.S. IN SEX SCANDAL

President Park Geun-hye fired spokesman Yoon Chang-jung in the middle of her trip to the United States after he was accused of sexually assaulting an intern from the Korean Embassy in Washington. A police report said the suspect "grabbed (the victim's) buttocks without her permission" in a hotel. The intern made a complaint to the Washington police the following day.

The scandal marred an otherwise highly successful premiere trip abroad and directly embarrassed Korea's first woman president, who vowed to crack down on sex crimes during her presidential campaign.

Sources at the Korean Embassy and other interns told the JoongAng Ilbo that Yoon invited the intern to his room at the Fairfax Hotel early the next morning and answered the door wearing only underwear.

During a press conference in Korea, however, Yoon said that he just "tapped" the intern on the waist to wish her success and did not know who was knocking on his door when he answered her "unexpected visit" in just his underwear. He blamed the encounter on "cultural differences," but didn't explain why he fled the country.

A group of 23 women lawmakers of the Democratic Party held a press conference and condemned Yoon. "After the victim filed a report to the police, Yoon reportedly presented his foreign delegate visa," their statement said. "Then the police told him to stay in his hotel for questioning later. While the police were contacting the Korean Embassy to take him into custody, Yoon went straight to the airport without even collecting his personal belongings and ran away."



# WANTED ENGLISH TEACHER EXTRADITED TO U.S.

An American who had been teaching English in Korea for eight years was wanted by the FBI for alleged statutory rape and arrested in North Jeolla. Police said they arrested the 43-year-old U.S. citizen on April 26. He was deported the next day.

The suspect was able to avoid detection by the authorities in the past because he was wanted for the alleged rape of a girl under the age of 12 in Kentucky, but had never been caught.

Criminal background checks for English teachers and other foreign workers only show convictions.

The police said the suspect was wanted for allegedly raping the underage girl three times from August to October 2003.

He was on the run from the U.S. police for more than six months before fleeing to Thailand in June 2004. He received an E-2 visa to teach English in Korea in late 2004.

The Seoul police said he worked at five institutions including an elementary school, university and hagwon in the past eight years.

In July 2010, the Korean government began to require E-2 visa applicants to submit criminal histories. "Every country in the world follows the principle of the presumption of innocence," a spokesman of the Ministry of Justice said.

The police said the suspect received his criminal history report from the U.S. via international mail

and submitted it to the Ministry of Justice when he renewed his visa last September, and U.S. authorities realized he was in Korea.

The police said they received intelligence that the suspect was working as an English teacher in North Jeolla from the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, and then received an investigation cooperation request from the U.S.

Authorities found him after two months of searching. The police deported the suspect from the country and are investigating if he committed any crimes in Korea, but he is not a suspect in any criminal cases here.

## 2 DIE IN BLAZE SET BY LANDLORD

A 72-year-old man surnamed Lim lit his neighbor's apartment on fire over excessive noise, claiming the lives of the neighbor's daughter and her boyfriend, who was visiting.

The incident began when Lim, who owns the multistory home, and his neighbor living on the first floor identified as Cho, 51, began quarreling at around 5:50 p.m., the Bupyeong Police Precinct reported.

Seeing no end to the dispute, the increasingly upset Lim brandished a hatchet and then lit a fire after spraying gasoline inside Cho's home.

Due to the smoke from the fire, Cho's 27-year-old daughter and her boyfriend, 24, died from smoke inhalation. Cho's wife was spared when she jumped out of the window. Cho escaped the fire unharmed.

According to the authorities, Lim and Cho have lived in the same building for 10 years.

The tragic incident is the latest in a string of crimes related to apartment noise this year.

During the Lunar New Year holiday, a 45-year-old man killed two brothers visiting their parents after an argument over noise in a Seoul apartment building.

## POT-SMOKING CELEBRITIES CHARGED Ex-'Chatting Beauties' star, DMTN singer to stand trial

The Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency Monday charged boy-band singer Choi Daniel and TV personality Bianca Mobley with smoking and selling marijuana.

The two celebrities are already standing trial without detention from an indictment in March by the Suwon District Prosecutors' Office on similar charges. The Seoul police said Choi, the 22-year-old singer from the pop group DMTN, purchased the illegal drug from a 25-year-old English tutor identified as Seo and sold it to three people on three occasions last year. The singer is accused of selling 3.5 grams of marijuana for 500,000 won (\$458.50) as well as smoking the drug.

Mobley, who starred on the KBS talk show "Chatting Beauties," is charged with helping Choi arrange the purchase and sales as well as smoking the marijuana with Choi. They may face harsher punishments in Seoul considering the similar charges in Suwon.

The Seoul police reported that they also busted 16 others suspected of smoking the illegal drug. Among the 16, police said, is a member of a local indie band identified by the surname Seo. He is accused of harvesting 50 grams of marijuana from a mountainside in Jeongseon County, Gangwon, and selling it in nine batches for a total of 1.5 million won. Seo also allegedly smoked marijuana grown on the mountain.

## POLICE TASER DRUNK WOMAN IN THE EYEBALL

The local police are under fire for using excessive force to control a woman who was drunk at a restaurant.

The woman is now permanently blind in her left eye after a police officer tased her face. The officer said it was an accident, but the woman claims otherwise.

At 2:28 in the morning, the Dalseo Police Precinct received a call from the owner of a restaurant in Dalseo District, Daegu, saying a drunken couple was creating a disturbance. Two police officers, including a 51-year-old officer surnamed Park, were dispatched to the scene.

In front of the restaurant, a 34-year-old woman surnamed Kang was fighting with her husband. She was wielding a large set of scissors. Her husband was waving a beer bottle.

The couple had drunk two bottles of beer and a bottle of soju together.

The police officers ordered the husband inside the restaurant. But the wife started yelling at them, "Why do you care?"

The officers pushed Kang onto the ground in order to

handcuff her, but she resisted. In the tussle, a Taser held by officer Park discharged at her face and two needles got stuck in Kang's left eye and nose.

A Taser, which is 15.3 centimeters (6.02 inches) long, is a tool that police use in handling violent individuals that fires two needles in a single shot connected to wires that deliver charges of 50,000 volts. The gun's effective range is about 5 to 7 meters. It paralyzes a person's muscles temporarily.

"As Kang acted too violently, we pulled out our Taser and the safety was released," Park explained. "But it was fired by mistake when we tussled with the woman."

Kang recalls differently. She insists that Park took her down on the ground after she refused to be handcuffed. She said the police Tased her on the waist one time and then fired again after saying, "Look at this woman."

"I'm not a robber or a rapist, but a housewife," Kang said.

The police said Tasers do no permanent harm, but there are opinions they can cause blindness.

## K-POP NEWS

### 'Gangnam Style' wins Billboard award

Psy won the Top Streaming Song — Video Category for the popular horse dance song. The award goes to the singer of a music video that is most viewed online via YouTube and other social networking services. Psy earned the grand title with his hit song of last year that recorded more than 1.6 billion views on YouTube.

He is the first Korean artist to win at the Billboard Music Awards held at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

When he was asked by local reporters if his new song "Gentleman" would ever beat out "Gangnam Style," Psy said he is just doing his best.

### 'Gentleman' in freefall on Billboard chart

Despite Psy's "Gentleman" breaking the 300-million mark on YouTube, the song slipped further on the Billboard Hot 100 chart to 33rd place from 26th place a week before.

Psy shared his disappointment during a special lecture at Harvard University on Thursday.

He said he was surprised to find himself disappointed when he heard the news, even though he should be thankful for being recognized on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in the first place.

In the lecture, Psy said that the good run of "Gangnam Style" was very accidental and that such an event doesn't happen often.

### Yesung begins his military duty

Super Junior member Yesung began his mandatory military duty with four weeks of basic training at a base in Jeonju, North Jeolla. No official event to announce the enlistment was scheduled as Yesung had expressed his will to keep it quiet, saying it is not just him who fulfills military duty. After the four weeks of training, he will serve as a civil servant for 23 months at a public office. In addition to Yesung, two other members of the group are currently serving their military duties. Heechol has been a civil servant since September 2011. Another member Leeteuk is serving as a soldier.

### T-ara N4 opens for Chris Brown

T-ara N4, a subunit group of T-ara, held its U.S. debut performance with the song "Counterside Diaries," the group said during a press conference. The group opened the solo concert of American hip-hop singer Chris Brown last month in Las Vegas.

"As it is our first performance in the United States, we want to bring out the best," said Jiyeon of the group. "I'm nervous and excited."

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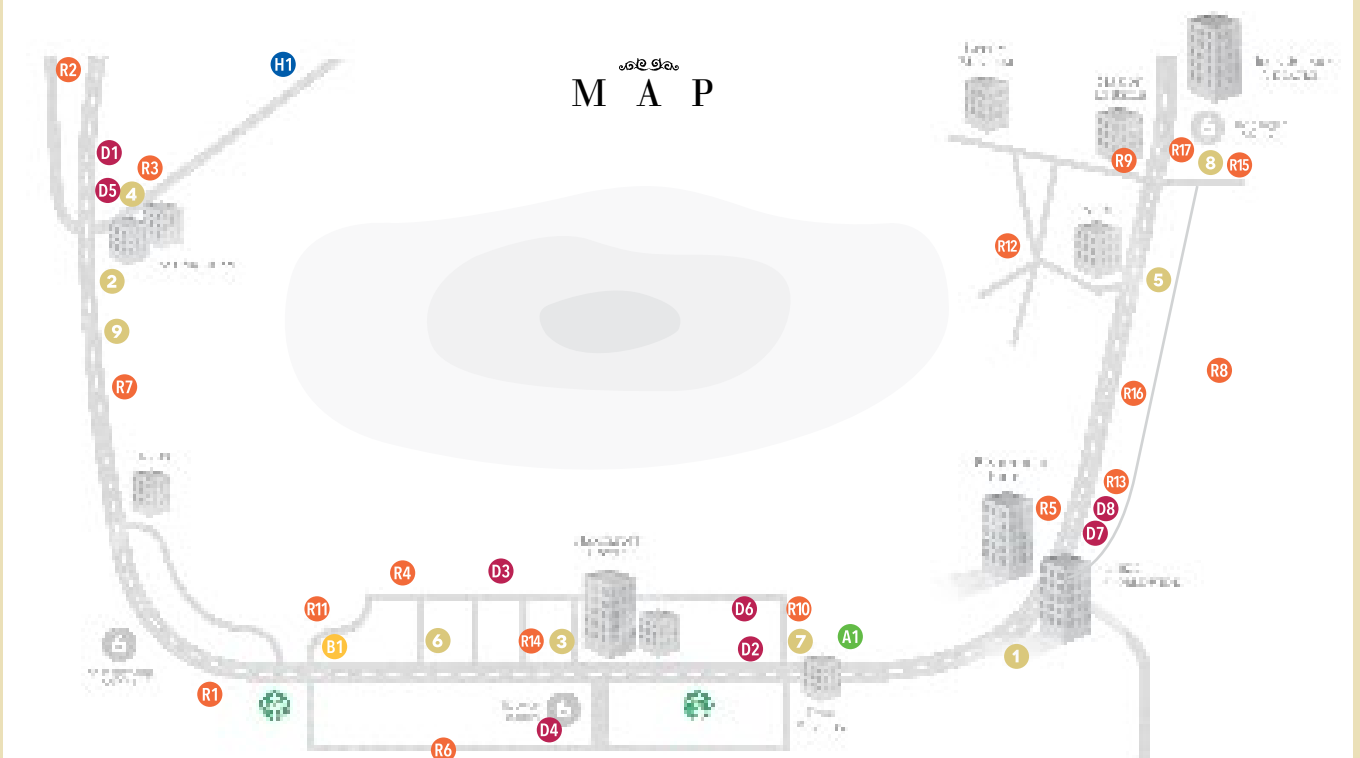
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MAP



See page 90 for detailed information

## TRENDING KOREA

# A SIGH OF RELIEF FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS

The government has recently decided to scrap their plan to increase the cost of foreign investment visas from 100 million won to 300 million won.

**Story by** Daniel Tudor / **Illustration by** Cynthia Fernandez



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Daniel Tudor, the Economist's Korea correspondent, writes about topics of interest in Korea today. Recently he released his first book "Korea: The Impossible Country," which has been the subject of articles and reviews in the Financial Times, The Wall Street Journal, Time, and others. His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of Groove Korea. — Ed.



## I THINK THE POWERS-THAT-BE REALIZED THAT THERE IS A NEW BREED OF FOREIGN ENTREPRENEUR EMERGING IN SEOUL, OPENING BARS, CAFÉS, RESTAURANTS, AND EVEN GETTING INVOLVED IN TECH START-UPS.

● As many of you will know, the government recently backed down from its plans to triple the cost of investment visas. The plan had been to raise the minimum capital requirement from 100 million won to 300 million won. Those concerned about this were asked to voice their opinions – but I never thought for a moment that the government would actually be prepared to change course.

I tend to criticize the government a lot (it's my job, really) but in this case I have to say "well played." I think the powers-that-be realized that there is a new breed of foreign entrepreneur emerging in Seoul, opening bars, cafés, restaurants, and even getting involved in tech start-ups, and so on. These businesses may be small, but in a country where many young people struggle to get by, anyone who can offer a job should be made welcome.

It seems pretty clear that there is a lot more diversity these days, in terms of the waegukindeul you can meet here in Korea. When I first lived in Seoul in 2004, there seemed to be just three types: the English teacher, the American soldier, or that great object of jealousy — the Korea head of a foreign company, with a housing budget twice as big as your entire salary. I was in the first category back then; as a journalist now, I meet a lot of those in the third category. I'm still jealous of them.

But now it is becoming normal to run into small entrepreneurs, and all manner of artists, filmmakers, and generally creative people from abroad here in Seoul. They're more likely to be studying Korean, and more likely to be involved in projects with locals, narrowing the perceived gap between Korean and non-Korean. Anything that encourages more people like this to come to Korea has to be worth doing.

And it makes sense for them to be here, as Korea is also still a land of opportunity. Neighborhood by neighborhood, there are changes going on in Seoul that we can take part in. Artsy types are helping transform places in run-down Mullae-dong and Mangwon-dong, taking over old buildings and using them as shared studios and exhibition spaces. Kyungridan has already become a cool area thanks to the involvement of small businessmen and women from abroad; Haebangchon is going the same way.

Hong Seok-cheon – the man who remade half of Itaewon in his own image – uses the expression 'golmok munhwa' (backstreet culture) to describe the kind of building-by-building overhaul that is changing all of these districts. I'm trying to get involved in that munhwa too – in the next few months I'll be leaving my job, and partly concentrating on a new bar I'm investing in, also around Kyungridan. I hope eventually to have my own business based around the search for urban change in Seoul.

In the past, it seemed that the cost of the investment visa would always be beyond me. It started out at 50 million won, and went up to a hundred. Then came the proposal to bump it up to three hundred. It seemed all but inevitable that the plan would go through – but thankfully, the government listened and reversed their decision.

Knowing that, we should also be more positive about our ability to get involved in issues in Korea. The ridiculousness of mandatory HIV testing for foreign English teachers (which this magazine highlighted recently) is still with us, for instance, but those who care about it should keep up the pressure. If enough of a fuss is made, the government will have to listen eventually.

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# KOREA— KNOWING WHEN TO LEAVE

Looking back at my decision to move 'home'

Column by John M. Rodgers / Illustration by Jason Burnett



## A foreigner lands at home

People always say that time flies and flees faster the longer you're around. A year has passed since I boarded an Asiana flight out of Incheon with most of my life in two duffle bags and a backpack. The rest of it was in boxes on a ship headed across the Pacific. I landed as a foreigner in the country of my birth, much like the line from G. K. Chesterton's "Tremendous Trifles": "The whole object of travel is not to set foot on foreign land; it is at last to set foot on one's own country as a foreign land."

An old friend used to say that he equated his time in Korea to "The Odyssey"; he was going to both friend and fight the gods like Odysseus did until his years were up and he returned home to New York City, just a few hours south of another Ithaca (though without the same drama). He stayed the 10 years, but departed Seoul not for his homeland but for Cambodia, where the gods continue

to vie for his soul on the Hadean streets of Phnom Penh. My ship arrived more on target, but with the same feeling that Odysseus might've had on his trip to the Land of the Lotus Eaters, except that I couldn't send any scouts ahead.

My landing was softened by spring's salubrity. I was first greeted by the climate and geography that are specific to New England: chilly nights giving way to frost-laden mornings that rise among the stone walls and old colonials, shaking off the cold and welcoming the warmth of ever longer days. At first, the silence and unadulterated darkness woke me at night as I listened for something: the slam of a car door, the yap of a neighbor's dog, the general hum of the city, anything. It was as if my mind sought those things for assurance, like it remained back in my Seoul apartment and wondered what my body was doing in a bed that was eight miles down a dead-end road in an 1825 New Hampshire Cape-style home. This took weeks to pass, but I sometimes still wake and can



## ABOUT THE WRITER

After a long stint in Korea, John M. Rodgers is back in the United States and writes about readjustment. He is a founding editor of The Three Wise Monkeys webzine and currently acts as Groove Korea's editor-at-large. — Ed.



easily place myself in that apartment overlooking the entire city of Seoul from the side of Mt. Acha in the far eastern Gwangjin district.

That phenomenon seemed to encapsulate my readjustment; I had physically left Korea, but many parts of me — mentally, professionally, spiritually and beyond — remained there. I imagine that this is why many people advise shorter stints abroad, say two to three years. Those cultural rules you learn growing up, the common sense Einstein called, “the collection of prejudices acquired by age 18,” remain mostly intact, unaltered and firm. Stay five years or more and you change for better or worse. You acquire different prejudices that conflict with those you carried to Korea and sometimes you can’t explain them to yourself (why am I opening the window midwinter while I clean?). Then you leave. Or you stay the rest of your life. It’s scary how simple that is — after a certain point, staying forever becomes this choice that has a straightforward yes or no answer.

### The gods had been kind

Eighteen months ago, I sat atop my apartment building on a crisp, clear October evening looking west over the city as the first neon lights signaled the arrival of nighttime and the city’s luminous transformation. What will happen out there tonight? I thought, imagining the millions of people circulating through the subway tunnels and stations, on buses, in taxis and cars, filling bbq restaurants, singing rooms, Gangnam clubs and hostess bars, sitting at school desks, in office towers, along the Han River, in PC bangs — everyone doing something, going somewhere, living his or her life; many out of one, one out of many. Looking to my right, north, I could see the high school where I taught, still filled with students who would work until after 10 p.m., and the ridges of Mounts Bukhan and Dobong further onward. Looking south, I followed the Han River’s serpentine edges through marching apartment complexes and skyscrapers. Mounts Daemo, Cheonggye and Gwanak wrapped the southern edges of the city in sweeping shadows.

Just then, an airliner descended through the distant setting sun, into Gimpo or maybe Incheon, and I thought of the people onboard, of myself onboard many years before, landing on a gelid January morning as an absolute foreigner, knowing one person on the peninsula, planning to stay a year, briefed by a Culture Shock Korea book and a Lonely Planet phrasebook that proved invaluable.

My first month acted as a crash course in all things Korean: using chopsticks, bowing, sitting on the floor, trying to buy and order anything, giving and receiving things with two hands, navigating the streets. I’d been lucky for sure. My director was a middle-aged woman (unusual in Korea), and my language academy was located in Gaepo-

dong, Gangnam-gu, an affluent neighborhood in southern Seoul, set amongst mountains, forests and the Yangjae Stream. My apartment, though cramped by Western standards, was a pleasant 15-minute walk from work, five minutes from the bus stop where I could catch the 710 bus (now 143) that ran right across the city, south to north, and two minutes from the local market. Moreover, my students were a great mixture of prodigies and class clowns who taught me that kids are just kids no matter where you go.

The first part of my personal odyssey provided some stiff breezes and rough seas, but I never worried about housing, pay, meals, my health, the students’ parents — I sailed on unscathed, a lucky amateur at the helm. I say lucky because we’ve all heard the stories (and I’ve covered a few): the unpaid, the sick who have their insurance pulled, the sinister slave-driving director, the deplorable housing, the controlled bank account, et al. The gods had been kind, as that old friend used to say. The only real tempest was a serious ailment that forced my admittance to Severance Hospital

WITH A COLD CAN OF OB  
LAGER IN HAND I CLIMBED  
THE NARROW STAIRS TO THE  
SMALL ROOFTOP GARDEN  
WITH THAT CITYSCAPE  
SPRAWLED OUT BEFORE  
ME; MY CITY, I THOUGHT, MY  
HOME. BUT FOR THE REST OF  
MY LIFE?

where by chance my doctor ended up being one of the nation’s top surgeons, a gentle and genial man who, several years later, performed intestinal surgery on me (a Zeusian intervention, perhaps). But even that frightening experience further assured me that I could spend the rest of my life in Korea — having your own doctor as a friend does a great deal to settle the soul.

So the years passed. During that time, I advanced to one of the nation’s top prep schools, joined the staff of DDD, an eclectic cultural magazine out of Daejeon, made life-long Korean friends, traveled the land by train, ferry, foot and bus, paid into my pension and essentially assimilated and settled. The one-year plan disappeared with time and turned into two-, four- and five-year plans.

Like Lennon said, “Life is what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans.”

### The odyssey’s end?

Then one day a bold female student asked me what I was doing next. Next? Suddenly, all my years in Korea and before were at the front of my mind. I’d settled into a comfort zone, I thought. Yes, it was in Korea, but Korea no longer fit the definition of a foreign country. It was home. For me, this registered one day when, as my flight landed in Incheon from a visit to America, the feeling that I was “back home” popped into my head. On every subsequent trip in and out of the country, I felt like I was leaving and returning, not the opposite. Those unforced internal changes of consciousness epitomized my overall transformation. But, what next?

Leaving my fourth floor office that autumn evening during school dinnertime, I passed packs of students who waved at me, smiling and saying, “Goodbye, Rodgers!” “Goodnight, teacher!” “See you tomorrow, seonsaengneem!”; three years of students I had either taught or was teaching, marching along with time. I smiled and waved. As I neared the bottom of the school entrance by the large, red A-frame gate that I’d walked under countless times, I saw the girl who’d asked me the question earlier in the day. She was with a group of her girlfriends, giddy, shouting, twisting, bouncing, until, as usual, one of them spotted me and the word “Lo-jo-su” (my name in Hangeul) quickly spread while they all stared, shouted and waved. I’m sure I imagined it, but I swore the girl looked at me with that same quizzical expression, still thinking about the question and my inability to answer.

That feeling stayed with me as I strolled through the neighborhood; the students’ shouts and screams descending from the schoolyards above, the owner of the local bookstore wishing me well, the old lady at the corner store welcoming me with a smile. Walking up the hill to my apartment, a three-story brick building perched on the side of the mountain’s base, I kept thinking of the student’s question and the fact that I’d seen her just as I left the school gate. Was she reminding me of the odyssey’s end, that I had been ashore too long? With a cold can of OB Lager in hand I climbed the narrow stairs to the small rooftop garden with that cityscape sprawled out before me; my city, I thought, my home.

But for the rest of my life?

And that is when I decided that I could live in Korea forever. First, however, I’d have to extract myself, leave my comfort zone, think of that next thing the student reminded me of (that students often remind us of) and wrap up things while it was still possible. By leaving that glimmering city and landing back in America, I would now accept myself as a foreigner from abroad, changed from that kid who trusted the gods to deliver him some favorable seas on a journey to a faraway land and, hopefully, to help him sail back, be it two or 10 years later.

GROOVE

# KOREA'S PREVENTABLE OBESITY ABYSS

**Story by** Shelley DeWees / **Illustrations by** Alli Kildahl, Cynthia Fernández

● I didn't scratch my head when my grocery store started carrying Double Stuf Oreos. People like these things. They want 'em, so the store carries 'em. Inside the recognizable packaging there are no surprises either. Just the same ol' cookies. If I opened one of the hundreds of Krispy Kreme boxes I see on the subway, I would find nothing inside it to turn my world upside down. Just greasy donuts. People like those, too. I get it.



KOREANS HAVE BEEN IN NON-STOP PARTY MODE FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS. THEY'RE ON VACATION, EATING LIKE EVERY MEAL IS A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION, ORDERING ANOTHER ROUND, STOPPING FOR ICE CREAM ON THE WAY HOME. AND REALLY, WHO CAN BLAME THEM?



#### MEAT MARKET

Annual meat consumption went from 3.6 kg to 11 kg per capita from 1961 to 1979. Today that number has risen to 89 kg per capita.

I know these slightly uncomfortable truths about globalization. I know that, no matter how far I alight from my home country, it will always somehow follow me. Yet still, even knowing these things, I was confused when I bit into a kimbap and tasted something strange. Something foreign. I rolled it around in my mouth a bit, noting the buttery flavor and the oily-ish texture, cursing the lack of light as I strode through Dongdaemun. I chewed. I swallowed. Then I found a street lamp and was astonished to find that inside my beautiful kimbap from my favorite street stand, nestled up against the pickled radish and carrots, rolled up underneath the egg and around the spinach, was a giant slab of processed cheese. I'd observed this phenomenon before, but never from my favorite stand in Dongdaemun, owned and operated by my favorite Korean man who always finds time to give me the thumbs up. This guy is traditional in the best sense of the word: sweet and generous. Yet here he was, in one of the oldest parts of the city, adding a new ingredient to his time-honored classic. Inside the recognizable kimbap packaging was a mighty surprise. It's almost painfully ironic that we call it American cheese.

Western food has arrived in Korea in a big way. Ice cream and cheesy pretzels are almost as ubiquitous as steamed corn and chicken on a stick, and you're about as likely to see either one for sale at food stands in this fair city. What will it be? Hotteok or french fries? Tteokbokki or waffles smothered in whipped cream? How about a hotdog wrapped in dough, rolled in tater tots, and fried? You can quickly start to think you've arrived at a state fair, what with all the options.

Embracing global influences is indicative of a nation

on the rise. In the case of South Korea, it shows with gleaming clarity that the bonds of war can be shaken in a few short decades, turning a nearly destroyed country into an economic powerhouse with commodities aplenty. From 1960 to 1999, the world was in awe as South Korea picked itself up, dusted itself off and became one of the fastest-growing economies on the planet. They established such a resilient financial system that other nations have come to envy it. Things are trotting along so nicely over here that foreigners can waltz in and settle down to a comfortable job with a salary our U.S. friends can only dream about (sure, there's a recession on, but it's hard to notice when you can finally pay down your student debt). The doors to our little peninsula are standing open, blowing in new people with new ways. It was inevitable that traditions here would begin to unravel, especially in the notoriously fickle world of food.

The old ways in Korea were developed as a result of the old political environment which was, to say the least, a bit shaky in the past. People here were subject to bouts of major hunger, even before the war. Japan's occupation made very little available for low-income families until 1945, whereupon they enjoyed a measly five years of peace before the conflict with the North arose. Koreans looked for cheap, filling meals wherever they could find them, turning to millet and barley instead of rice, developing a taste for Spam, and using vegetables to their fullest extent to round out a meager meal. However, as the conditions here started to improve, food shortages became less frequent. Dairy products crashed onto the scene in the 1970s after mechanized farms were introduced, and annual meat consumption went from 3.6 kg to 11 kg per capita from 1961 to 1979. Some estimates have shown as much as a 44-percent increase in caloric intake between 1962 and 1995.

**Modern life, modern food**

Nowadays, the surge continues. Koreans have been feasting on calories and gorging on desserts like crazy. The average Korean eats anywhere between 2,850 and 3,050 calories every day, many coming from packaged or instant foods, and annual meat consumption is up to 89 kg per capita. Now, the Korean Obesity Association reports that the number of people with a BMI over 25 has jumped significantly in the past seven years, especially in men. Between 1998 and 2006, the prevalence of obese guys skyrocketed from 26 percent to 36.1 percent — a growth of 10.1 percent in just eight years.

That is huge.

The reasons behind this ridiculous statistic are many; suffice it to say that Korea is partying. Koreans have been in non-stop party mode for the past 10 years. They're on vacation, eating like every meal is a cause for celebration, ordering another round, stopping for ice cream on the way home. And really, who can blame them? An entire generation of nearly-starved people is standing at the buffet of modern life, holding their plates. They're ready to forget what it's like to be hungry all the time. Lots of exciting things are being served tonight, so why not load up? Great big pile of meat, check. Cheesy bread and butter, check and check. "Down at the end of the table, you'll find our wide selection of packaged desserts and snacks for the road, sir." "Take a few home!" "Your grandson likes chips, right?"

Modern life in Korea means modern food, Western food, convenient food. Fancy food. Processed yummys are stocked on the shelves of grocery stores, bursting from nearly every storefront and stashed underneath the counter of street food stands in every corner of Seoul. You can get nachos fit for a king, smothered in yellow goo and drizzled with ketchup, stuffed crust pizzas with pepperoni, and egg tarts wrapped in buttery pastry pulled straight out of the freezer and fried. They're lovin' their fast food restaurants, mayonnaise-infused

kimbap and sweetened drinking yogurts. They can go to one of the drive-thru McDonalds or swing into their neighborhood street food stand for a hot dog. Aw geez, they can even have Oreos and milk.

Everyone seems to be lining up to take a bite of all this prosperity, eschewing rice in favor of pizza. So where did all the kimchi go?

Sure, physical education has been pushed to the back burner, but schools remain a shining beacon of healthy lifestyle and the last bastion of traditional food. Lunches always include soup, vegetables, a small portion of meat or tofu, one or two banchan (side dishes) such as pickled radishes, kimchi or noodles, fruit and lots of rice. Done. No cheese, no dairy, no packaged materials, just rice with lots of pretty things on top. And while there will always be kids with discerning palates frowning at certain items, the lunches are generally well-received, especially since they're completely free at all public schools in Seoul. Kids are given sufficient calories to get them through the day, but not enough to feel stuffed: 500 to 600 calories for elementary kids, 660 to 900 for middle and high school students.

When schools have control, consumption is kept to a minimum (except on bibimbap day), but in the outside world, the party still rages. Take, for instance, field trip day. Modern Mom packs a punch: fried chicken with creamy sauce, meat sandwiches, kimbap-esque rolls with ham, mayonnaise, and that dreaded neon cheese. Any extra space is filled with bagged goodies, sweets, chocolates, and sometimes even pie — trendy, flashy food. Your students' parents grew up in a time of plenty. And plenty of food there is.

**The American Example**

Let me tell you the story of another nation who enjoyed similar growth, who took the same path, and is now stewing in the remains of its hangover.

The U.S. had its own periods of scarcity during the 1930s and 40s which, alongside big distribution

**PIGGING OUT**

When schools have control, consumption is kept to a minimum, but Modern Mom packs a Punch. Take for instance, field trip day, when they're fed fried chicken with creamy sauce, meat sandwiches, kimbap-esque rolls with ham, mayonnaise, and that dreaded neon cheese.



#### UNITED STATES OF FAT

In 1971, daily caloric intake for a man was around 2,450, while women chugged along at 1,542. Today that has risen to an average daily calorie intake at around 3,480 and a staggering 3,770 for men.

KOREANS HAVE BEEN  
FEASTING ON CALORIES AND  
GORGING ON DESSERTS  
LIKE CRAZY. ANNUAL MEAT  
CONSUMPTION IS UP TO 89  
KG PER CAPITA. IT WAS ONLY  
3.6 KG IN 1961.

problems and a lack of proper food storage, left many dinner tables empty across the vast land. One-pot meals like soups and casseroles were dominant, and meat was stretched to the absolute limit (hello, meatloaf). Fortunately for penny-pinchers, many packaged brands were already on the market: Oreos, Marshmallow Fluff, Quaker Puffed Cereal and, yes, Crisco stood ready and waiting to be used for a cheaper price than their “real” counterparts. Following a time of rationing during World War II, big steps were taken in transportation.

Daily caloric intake for a man in 1971 was somewhere around 2,450 (women chugged along at 1,542) but as the cost of fresh fruits and veggies went up and Americans got busier, calorie-dense processed foods remained a staple and bolstered the intake to 2,618 calories for men and 1,877 for women by 2000.

Relatively speaking, the U.S. has never seen the kind of food shortages that other countries have known. America was in a time of abundance for almost the entire 20th century and continues to be. The food is even looking a bit humdrum these days, tottering along at an acceptable rate of indulgence without being outright



IT MAY BE TIME TO ASK  
YOURSELF IF THE SHORT-  
LIVED PLEASURE-CENTER  
STORM IN YOUR BRAIN IS  
WORTH IT. PRIORITIZE FOOD.



ostentatious. Of course you'll have a second plate. When have you not?

I guess it's not a surprise that the U.S. is the fattest country in the world, with average daily calorie intake now sitting at around 3,480 and a staggering 3,770 for men. That's an increase of nearly 1,000 calories per day since 2000. Protein consumption is utterly preposterous as well, thanks to misdirected dieters, and studies report that most people eat more than 114 grams per day.

Again, unsurprisingly, more than one third of Americans have a BMI higher than 30.

Unlike in Korea, schools have largely been part of the problem in the U.S. Until only recently, they had what amounts to nearly unbridled freedom in the lunchroom, serving JELL-O and spaghetti and french fries, corn dogs and chicken patties with ranch, and beef that is held to a lower quality standard than the stuff that goes to McDonald's. The best lunch day ever in my school was Chili Day, where you'd get a big bowl of cheesy chili along with a gigantic cinnamon roll with butter (you know, the customary side dish for chili). Others say Turkey and Gravy Day was awesome, or Rectangle Pizza Day. How about Taco Salad Day, where you'd have seasoned beef served on a bed of Fritos? Fritos! I'd get in trouble if I tried that at home. Michelle Obama has successfully spearheaded a campaign to change things up a bit, but people are bucking against the new regulations and claiming that new portion sizes are too lean. They are as follows: elementary kids eat 650 calories, middle schoolers 700, and high school students receive 850. These figures are comparable to what Korean kids get, but no one in America is eating rice and soup.

I really don't need to tell you how rampant the fatness is, nor about how many problems there are as a result. It's almost funny. The party in the U.S. has been bangin' for more than a century, but now the tab is due. Do you have a spare 60 billion bucks? That's one expensive shindig, especially for a healthcare system that's already strapped, and it doesn't even account for the amount that will be lost in economic productivity. Too many steaks and french fries means hospital visits and surgery, which means weeks of recovery on the couch. Compounded over 20 years and millions of people, the U.S. is set to lose \$500 billion by 2030. That's enough to buy everyone in the country gasoline — for a year.

Like I said, I get it. We all get it. Cookies are awesome. People love cheese. It's easy to lose track of what's really important when someone drops a warm, honey-glazed waffle into your palm and asks if you're free for dinner. But with all we've seen happen in the U.S., it may be time to ask yourself if the short-lived pleasure-center storm in your brain is worth it.

Prioritize food. Ask yourself if you really need to buy those little cakes shaped like corn when you stroll through the train station.

And as for you, Korea, you are zooming down the road to Fat City, and the view sucks from over there. We wayward Americans can speak from experience; what you're doing will cost you big. We all understand that rice and vegetable meals are only interesting for just so long, but so is eating like a frat boy. So, please, stop putting cheese in my kimchap. **GROOVE**



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Shelley DeWees worked as a vegan chef for a Buddhist monastery before moving to Seoul. She is a columnist for Groove Korea. Her opinions do not necessarily reflect those of Groove Korea. — Ed.



# Horoscopes

June 2013



## Aries / March 20 - April 20

This month is full of ups and downs, partially due to complicated conjunctions still impacting you. You just need to create your own options and you will discover everything will drop into position, so long as you adhere to your choices. By the end of the month, you will look back and wonder what all the fuss was about.



## Libra / September 24 - October 23

You might have to deal with complications and challenges while working on projects. But enjoy a moment of respite mid-month. You might face some family troubles, and entrepreneurs may face financial failures this month. On the bright side, your social life is looking up. Take the opportunity to make new friends – it'll pay off.



## Taurus / April 21 - May 21

Take enough time to indicate on all your previous success. As things quiet down, now is the perfect time to do this. The point is you have actually achieved more than you think. Don't allow people to put you down or take advantage of your excellent characteristics. You know what you want and it is up to you to go out and get it.



## Scorpio / October 24 - November 22

This month is a good time to foster new business partnerships. Don't be afraid to make the first move. Your finances will take center stage this month. You can do well, but be cautious. Be aggressive, but not hasty.



## Gemini / May 22 - June 21

You may be psychologically pressured due to projects failing, and you may not be able to focus on any task. Your opponents will try to control you, but don't let them succeed. Your lifestyle will get more stressful, no thanks to disputes with expectant mothers or family members. Try to limit your exchange on touchy subjects.



## Sagittarius / November 23 - December 21

The first half of the month might challenge you mentally and physically. Competition will come at you from all sides. Your family's financial situation will fluctuate, which may stress you out. Don't let this sidetrack you from your studies or self-improvement goals. Focus on the light at the end of the tunnel.



## Cancer / June 22 - July 22

Your personal and professional life will blossom as you participate in social activities and events. At work, your efforts and dedication will put you in the spotlight. Health issues might creep up, and increased work pressure and responsibilities may drain your energy and stamina.



## Capricorn / December 22 - January 19

Everything seems to be going your way this month. People notice your abilities and start to appreciate your contributions. Enjoy your good luck but make sure to also invest time with family members. Things will slow down this month, but don't let yourself get bored. Take advantage of your downtime to relax and self-reflect.



## Leo / July 23 - August 23

You may experience surprising circumstances, which may be good or bad. If you've just finished a major project, you may find rewards in new opportunities. Take the chance to get out of your comfort zone. If you have trouble adapting to new situations, don't lose heart. Keep an open mind.



## Aquarius / January 20 - February 18

This season is generally relaxing for you, and things in your personal and professional life should run smoothly. Socializing will keep you busy this month. Let go of your past misfortunes, deal with the present and safeguard the future for you and your family.



## Virgo / August 24 - September 23

This month will be very exciting culturally and professionally, and full of activities as well. As for money, although you'll feel some pressure, you'd do well to take a lesson in saving and investment. You shouldn't face many health issues, but it'll be a stressful 30 days, which may exhaust you.



## Pisces / February 19 - March 19

Take account of your lifestyle choices and the world will become your oyster. This month is looking up for your religious or spiritual well-being. Strengthen your bond with those around you. Be brave and keep working toward your goals, despite any bumps in the road. You are your own success. Life will only get better if you take it by the horns.







# LOST AT SEA

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## 5 ISLAND JOURNEYS CALLING YOUR NAME THIS SUMMER

Story by Josh Foreman

Photos by Peter DeMarco, Justin Ornellas, Yu Soil, Elyse Canfield

● The tide was out, and the old man plodded through the mud, stopping to poke and dig every few feet. From our campsite a few hundred meters away, we guessed at what he was doing. Curiosity prodded us to walk down and investigate.

As we got closer we could see the trail of holes he'd left in the mud behind him. We finally caught up. He went along digging, and we peeked into his red bucket. Octopuses! Little purple ones, fresh from the sucking mud.

He noticed our surprise and motioned us over. We walked a few steps together and he stopped and pointed to a spot in the mud. A few air bubbles emerged on the surface. He tested the spot with his foot; it sunk in a little. This was a possible octopus hiding spot.

He took his shovel and dug a few big scoops, then reached into the muddy hole and began feeling around. His hand went deeper, and pushed into the wall of the hole — he'd found an offshoot tunnel and was following it with his hand, digging clumps of gray mud along the way. Finally he pulled up a fighting octopus and dropped it into his bucket.

The next hole he found, he let us explore, and we dug until we, too, had caught a few (of course, they went straight into his bucket).

It was one of the most interesting experiences I've had in Korea, and it happened on Deokjeokdo, an island in the Yellow Sea about 70 kilometers from Incheon.

Longtime expats will know of Deokjeokdo — it's been one of Korea's best kept travel secrets for years. And it's only one of thousands of islands that lie off the peninsula's coasts.





Photo of Ulleungdo by Peter DeMarco







## Ulleungdo

### YOU VERSUS THE VOLCANO

Take in the most spectacular scenery in Korea on Ulleungdo  
Photos by Peter DeMarco

Korea's second most famous volcanic island, it's the best known on this list. Ulleungdo is a land of jutting cliffs and lush vegetation, renowned for its clean air, medicinal plants and squid. Oh, and also Dokdo.

Yes, Ulleungdo has become inextricably associated with the beloved, uninhabitable, mania-inducing Dokdo by mere happenstance of geography. If you want to see Dokdo, you've gotta go to Ulleungdo. But enough about Dokdo. Ulleungdo has plenty to draw tourists all on its own.

Greatest of all is its spectacular scenery. Known as Korea's Emerald Isle, Ulleungdo's geography is unlike any other place in Korea. The island was formed violently by an erupting volcano. There's no flat place on the island save the crater of the volcano. Tree-covered peaks jut into the fog, surrounded by emerald water. The island is renowned for some of the best hiking in the country. And when you've worked up an appetite, settle in for a meal of squid (technically cuttlefish, a cousin of the squid) and medicinal herbs. And if that doesn't sound appetizing to you, don't worry, there's more to eat on the island (but seriously, I hope you like squid).

What Ulleungdo is not good for is lounging on the beach. Because of the violent nature of the island's creation, there aren't any sandy beaches here. It does have a good tourist infrastructure, however, so you can lounge in a comfortable hotel room when you're not out taking in the scenery.



### GETTING THERE

Ferries leave for Ulleungdo from two cities: Mukho and Pohang. The trip takes between two and three hours from each and costs between 40,000 won and 50,000 won each way.

### NEARBY ISLANDS

Might as well see what all the fuss is about and take a ferry from Ulleungdo to the most beloved island in Korea – Dokdo. Just be prepared for a rough journey – the ferry to Dokdo takes another two and a half hours over open sea to get there.

TREE-COVERED PEAKS JUT INTO THE FOG,  
SURROUNDED BY EMERALD WATER. THE ISLAND IS  
RENOWNED FOR SOME OF THE BEST HIKING IN THE  
COUNTRY.







## Baengnyeongdo

### BOATING TO THE BRINK

See the island on the front lines of the North-South conflict  
Photos courtesy Incheon Metropolitan City

Want to make friends and relatives think you're a badass when you go home? Tell them you spent a few days on Baengnyeongdo, the westernmost point in South Korea and a stone's throw from the North.

Baengnyeongdo is best known as the South's first line of maritime defense against the North. The Cheonan was sunk here in 2010, North Korean defectors have washed up on shore here, and Kim Jong-un recently pledged to obliterate the small island. A trip to Baengnyeongdo is a trip to the front line in the conflict between the two Koreas.

On Baengnyeongdo you can observe history in real time, but the island has a softer side, too. It takes a while to get out here from Incheon (between four and five hours), but you will be rewarded with sights unseen in the rest of the country. A colony of about 300 seals calls the island home, along with rare sea birds. The coast is dotted with spectacular rock formations, including the Dumujin, which resemble warriors setting out to sea. There's also a pebble beach here, and another that is made of sand packed so hard planes can take off and land on it.

Perhaps the biggest draw to the island is its proximity to the North. It's so close you can see the North Korean coast from here. With a telescope (provided at certain lookout points), you can get a clear view. So go ahead and make the trip; your friends back home will be very impressed.



### GETTING THERE

Ferries run from the Incheon Yeonan Ferry Terminal. The trip takes between four and five hours and costs 56,000 won each way.

### NEARBY ISLANDS

Yeonpyeongdo, the island that was infamously shelled by the North in 2010, is about halfway between Baengnyeongdo and Incheon, if you want to stop in to complete the militarized island tour.

THE COAST IS DOTTED WITH SPECTACULAR ROCK FORMATIONS, INCLUDING THE DUMUJIN, WHICH RESEMBLE WARRIORS SETTING OUT TO SEA.







## Deokjeokdo

THE BEST IS HARD TO BEAT

Why Deokjeokdo is the go-to island for expats in Korea

Photos by Justin Ornellas

Deokjeokdo is the go-to summer island among expatriates for a reason. It's easy to get to from Seoul, with multiple ferries running from Incheon during the busy season. On the other hand, at 70 kilometers into the ocean, it's truly remote. You can pitch your tent on any number of beaches, and will usually have that beach all to yourself.

It's the rare place in Korea where you can rough it – cook your dinner over a crackling fire, sleep under the stars, and swim your hangover away in the salty sea the next morning. If camping's not your thing, there are also a few pensions on the island. It's small enough to traverse on foot, but if you bring your bike it offers excellent cycling. There's a mountain in the middle of the island with a pagoda at the top, piers at the harbor where you can buy fresh clams, crabs and octopus, and little farms scattered all over the island where, if you're lucky, friendly locals will invite you in for food and drinks.

The island also has a few restaurants around the harbor that serve surprisingly good food (try the kkotgae tang, or spicy crab soup). A trip to Deokjeokdo is the perfect blend of convenience and escape, a Korean travel standby that only gets better the more times you go.



### GETTING THERE

Ferries run from the Incheon Yeonan Ferry Terminal twice daily. The fast ferry takes about an hour and costs about 40,000 won round-trip. The slow ferry takes about three hours and costs a little less.

### NEARBY ISLANDS

Muuido & Seungbongdo

Muuido is much closer to the shore than Deokjeokdo, so might be an easier trip if you're pressed for time. Seungbongdo is a little more developed than Deokjeokdo if you don't feel like roughing it. Ferries run to Muuido from Jamsil Ferry Terminal, and to Seungbongdo from Incheon Yeonan Ferry Terminal.

YOU CAN PITCH YOUR TENT ON ANY NUMBER OF BEACHES, AND WILL USUALLY HAVE THAT BEACH ALL TO YOURSELF.







## Eocheongdo

### THIS ONE'S FOR THE BIRDS

One of Asia's best birding destinations is just a ferry ride away

Photos by Lee Hyeongcheol

Seoul might fairly be called a bird desert. Pigeons, magpies, sparrows and bulbuls are nice, but if you're looking for much more than that you're out of luck. Eocheongdo, on the other hand, might fairly be called bird paradise.

If you're a city-dweller you might be surprised to learn that Korea is smack dab in the middle of one of the world's great flyways, or bird migration zones. Birds flying to and from Siberia stop over in Korea in the spring and fall, and Eocheongdo is one of their favorite spots.

Two-hundred twenty-eight species have been observed on the island, including several that have been seen nowhere else in Korea. The island is lush and hilly with trails and a few areas of wetland. In other words, it's a great place to spend a few days tromping around with a pair of binoculars around your neck. If you hit Eocheongdo in the spring, you'll see up to 120 species a day, including many colorful and exotic birds such as hoopoes, shrikes, thrushes and flycatchers. In the fall, the number is slightly lower, but still far higher than on the mainland.

Aside from all the birds, Eocheongdo is home to just a few hundred non-military residents. There's a lighthouse there, and the aforementioned trails. Whatever you choose to do, you'll be doing it early; legend has it the chickens on the island are loud enough to be heard from across the sea in China.



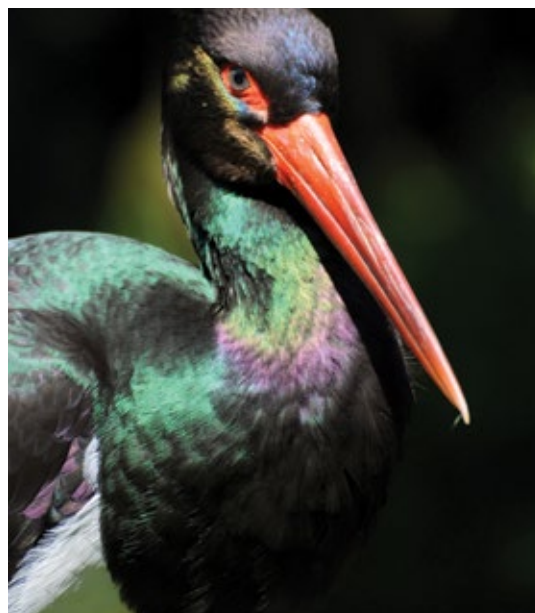
### GETTING THERE

Ferries run daily from the Gunsan Coastal Ferry Terminal. The trip takes two and a half hours and costs 23,000 won each way.

### NEARBY ISLANDS

Oeyeondo is the closest island to Eocheongdo, and it's unique enough to warrant a visit on its own. Formed from an ancient volcano, the island offers trekking and a very, very rural experience. Look for the purportedly enormous insects that call the island home. Ferries depart from Boryeong Port Passenger Terminal.

THE ISLAND IS LUSH AND HILLY WITH TRAILS AND A FEW AREAS OF WETLAND. IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S A GREAT PLACE TO SPEND A FEW DAYS TROMPING AROUND WITH A PAIR OF BINOCULARS AROUND YOUR NECK.







## Tsushima

### ESCAPE THE ROK

A trip to Japan is easier than you think

Photos by Elyse Canfield

The last island on our list is not a Korean island at all, but a Japanese one. It's a great inclusion, however, because it's easy to get to from Busan and offers something that all these other islands just can't: the thrill of international travel.

Tsushima lies just 50 kilometers from Busan. That's closer to the South Korean mainland than any other island on the list. Tsushima's history is linked to Korea by culture, trade and war. Tsushima has been inhabited for thousands of years and has at various times been a thrall of Korea, an independent nation, and for the last few hundred years part of Japan. Many cultural aspects of the island are actually more similar to those of Korea than of Japan. As far as sights on the island go, there isn't a whole lot to see and do. This is not Tokyo. It's not Fukuoka either, for that matter. It's a sleepy, rural island with just 40,000 or so residents. A full 90 percent of it is covered in mountain and forest. It is Japanese though, so if you're looking to charge your batteries with a little time away from the ROK, to get a new stamp in your passport or to eat some authentic Japanese food, it will suffice.

The biggest draw to Tsushima, of course, is its serene landscape. This is a place for hiking, cycling, and relaxing by the sea. And if you're lucky you might even catch a glimpse of the Tsushima leopard cat, a critically endangered endemic species.



### GETTING THERE

Ferries run daily from Busan International Ferry Terminal. The trip takes about two hours each way and costs about 100,000 won round-trip.

### NEARBY ISLANDS

If Tsushima isn't enough to satisfy your lust for new places, you might as well continue on 60 kilometers to Iki, a smaller island with its own tourist draws. Most famous as a place of mass dolphin slaughter in the 70s, the small island now boasts of its white sand beaches and slow pace of life.

IT'S A SLEEPY, RURAL ISLAND WITH JUST 40,000 OR SO RESIDENTS. A FULL 90 PERCENT OF IT IS COVERED IN MOUNTAIN AND FOREST.





# LAKE KANAS

## A VISIT TO CHINA'S 'MOST BEAUTIFUL NATURAL WONDER'

Story and Photos by Simon Bond

THE TRUE BEAUTY OF  
LAKE KANAS LIES IN THE  
AREAS LEAST TRAVELED.

**Lake Kanas, XINJIANG PROVINCE** — I began a conversation with my fellow tourists as I gazed across the wind-sculpted sand dunes of Crescent Moon Lake — a desert oasis in Gansu province, China. My interests were piqued at talk of another lake — one that was both beautiful and shrouded in mystery — Lake Kanas.

In Mongolian, Lake Kanas means beautiful and mysterious lake. More recently, however, it was named China's most beautiful natural wonder.

And with some encouragement from my fellow tourists, who were Chinese locals, I set my sights on visiting the famed lake.

### The lake, the mystery and the monster

Lake Kanas is located in Xinjiang province, China, and covers an impressive 28 sq. miles. The lake rests in a valley in the Altai Mountains, and has been hailed as the Switzerland of China. This fact is reinforced by the Swiss-style chalets that punctuate the valley.

On arrival, shuttle buses speed tourists off to the lake's main attractions. There is also a hop-on, hop-off service throughout the park.

But the true beauty of Lake Kanas lies in the areas least traveled. There is a section of the park that has recently been opened to the public and is largely unspoiled. While walking through the woods I saw deer and other wild animals, but perhaps the wildest animal of all — the monster of the lake — eluded me.

The longstanding legend is not unlike that of the Loch Ness monster in Scotland; the rumors suggest that this mighty beast devours horses and cattle before retreating to the bowels of the lake. The allure of the monster draws throngs of crowds every summer, but equally as enticing is the beauty of the emerald shining lake that cuts through Altai Valley.

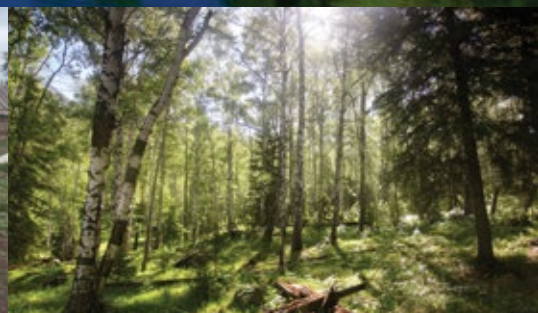
If you enjoy hiking, you'll fall in love with this park. Bring a tent and get lost in the wild, natural beauty. But, most importantly, do your best to lose the legion of tourists that crowd the main attractions.

Should you choose to mingle with the rich Chinese, then boat tours on the lake might be an enjoyable alternative. But for the most authentic experience, embrace the Mongolian culture of the area with a nomadic existence by hiking and camping throughout the park.

### The people's park

Along with the beauty and mysticism that surrounds Lake Kanas comes the politics of privilege. The days where China was the land of its people may be gone. The Chinese have become clever at monetizing their attractions. Today, it is common for tourists to spend upwards of \$40 on each attraction they visit. And this price only covers the basics





— each additional site and activity comes at an added cost.

It seems the natural beauty of China is reserved only for the wealthy. And these shocking costs aren't unique to Lake Kanas. The stone forest in Yunnan province is another example of the ruthless capitalism that plagues the people's country.

So, is it still worth it? My answer is yes — but only just. As for others, I've heard of people making the trek just to turn around and head back — refusing to empty their wallets on a single attraction.

#### **Saving money**

If you do choose to visit Lake Kanas, there are some ways to shave down the cost of the trip. The food is expensive, so save money by packing your own provisions; this will be especially useful if you do choose to camp at the park.

If you wish to indulge, the options include Chinese food common to Sinchuan province, as well as local Mongolian fare. Make sure to visit one of the Mongolian villages. You may get lucky and be invited to dinner by a local family. If you are invited, make sure to try the fermented horse milk, a staple in Mongolian culture. **GROOVE**



#### **GETTING THERE**

The first step to getting to Lake Kanas is to fly to Urumqi, the capital city of Xinjiang province in northwest China. Korean Air has direct flights from Incheon Airport. Once in Urumqi it's worth

staying a day or more to organize your trip. Maitian International Youth Hostel offers cheap accommodations, and they can help organize your trip.

#### **JOINING A TOUR**

There is a tourist agency that does trips to Lake Kanas from its office. They are located at the gates of the Bodega hotel in Urumqi.

The tour costs \$140 per person for a basic package. This includes transportation, three nights accommodation and entrance to the park. This tour

also includes a trip to Rainbow Beach and a ghost town.

Your budget for four days — including the added costs of attractions and food — should be about \$260 per person.

#### **THE INDEPENDENT TRAVELER**

If you are feeling more adventurous it is possible to visit Lake Kanas without joining a tour, but this route may push the limits of your resourcefulness. You'll need a budget of about \$150 per person, and around seven days to complete the trip.

Take the bus from Urumqi to Burqin, which will take

about 13 hours. Stay overnight in Burqin — there are several hotels, but not all of them will take foreign tourists. Next, you will need to find a driver; it may be difficult to negotiate a fair price, since the park is a three-hour drive from Burqin. Take along camping equipment to avoid costly accommodations.





## *flights for under \$300*

**Story by** Britney Dennison / **Photos by** Simon Bond, Elizabeth Groeschen, Dylan Goldby, Matthew Lamers, Colin Roohan, Flash Parker

● Looking to get away for summer but don't want to break the bank? Well, you are in luck.

Airlines such as Cebu Pacific Air, Jin Air, etc. have ongoing deals and seat sales for those travelers looking to further explore Asia. While these low-cost carriers may not have the comforts of an

up-scale airline, they can get you to and from your destination for a fraction of the cost.

The following is this month's selection of the top 12 flights for \$300 or less. Just remember to watch for deals, be flexible with times and dates and book quickly to avoid missing out.



*Inclusive of fees and taxes. Prices are as of May 25, 2013 and are subject to change.*

**Incheon-Shanghai, China**  
\$167 round-trip

**China Eastern Airlines**  
[www.flychinaeastern.com](http://www.flychinaeastern.com)  
Book now and fly immediately  
Regular price



**Busan-Xian, China**  
\$169 round-trip

**Air Busan**  
[www.airbusan.com](http://www.airbusan.com)  
Max stay 7 days  
Online special ("Smart 7special web")

**Incheon-Osaka, Japan**  
\$189 round-trip

**Jeju Air**  
<http://en.jejuair.net>  
Max stay 14 days  
Online special ("Joy Fare")



**Incheon-Cebu, Philippines**  
\$295 round-trip

**Jin Air**  
[www.jinair.com](http://www.jinair.com)  
Max stay 15 days  
Online special ("Super save fare")

**Gimpo-Taipei, Taiwan**  
\$250 round-trip

**t'way Air**  
[www.twayair.com](http://www.twayair.com)  
Limited availability  
Online special



**Busan-Macao, China**  
\$196 round-trip

**Air Busan**  
[www.airbusan.com](http://www.airbusan.com)  
Max stay 7 days  
Online special ("Smart 7special web")

**Gimpo-Taipei, Taiwan**  
\$267 round-trip

**Eastarjet**  
[www.eastarjet.com](http://www.eastarjet.com)  
Limited availability  
Online promotion



**Gimpo-Okinawa, Japan**  
\$247 round-trip

**Jin Air**  
[www.jinair.com](http://www.jinair.com)  
Max stay 15 days  
Online special ("Super save fare")

**Incheon-Bangkok, Thailand**  
\$290 round-trip

**Jeju Air**  
<http://en.jejuair.net>  
Limited availability  
Online special ("Joy Fare")



**Incheon-Hong Kong, China**  
\$302 round-trip

**Jin Air**  
[www.jinair.com](http://www.jinair.com)  
Max stay 15 days  
Online special ("Super save fare")

**Gimpo-Jeju, Korea**  
\$69 round-trip

**Eastarjet**  
[www.eastarjet.com](http://www.eastarjet.com)  
Limited availability  
Online promotion



**Gimpo-Busan, Korea**  
\$112 round-trip

**Busan Air**  
[www.airbusan.com](http://www.airbusan.com)  
Limited availability  
20% discount





# JEONJU

## IN A DAY

Essentials: Hanok, bibimbap and sundae

**Story by** Tim Park / **Photos by** Lee Dae-hyun

● If you think Jeonju is too distant from Seoul for a day trip, think again. The KTX can get you there in two hours flat, leaving plenty of time to take in one of Korea's most beautiful and well-preserved cities.

Groove Korea recently teamed up with the folks at HiTok, a popular smartphone app, to take a day trip to Jeonju. Highlights included bibimbap, Hanok Village and sundae. Here's what a few of the participants had to say.





### SAMUEL OKYERE, GHANA

Exotic side dishes, a wide range of carefully selected vegetables and a hot pot of bulgogi sum up my Jeonju bibimbap experience. It lived up to the hype. Even though I am not a big fan of kimchi, Jeonju's kimchi was just perfect. It was very fresh and not too spicy. The pajeon (a pancake-like Korean dish) coupled with meat was fantastic. Don't leave Jeonju without trying this dish.

### SARAH TIMM, U.S.

For lunch, we had sujeonggwa, a refreshing cinnamon and persimmon tea, pajeon, savory beef with glass noodle japchae, and specially prepared bibimbap. After climbing cherry blossom-covered hills and exploring the extensive Hanok Village, we enjoyed sweet red bean patbingsu shaved ice. After finishing at the outdoor market and trying the surprisingly delicious sundae blood sausage, (a type of Korean sausage), we headed home well-fed, satisfied and looking forward to returning to Jeonju some day.

### KRISTIAN JOHNSON, U.S.

Jeonju is a place packed with quintessential Korean beauty and all the dainty pleasures that come along with it. We satisfied our healthy appetites to our heart's content with legendary local fare — patbingsu (shaved ice with red beans), sundae (blood sausage), and of course, bibimbap. What trip to Jeonju could be complete without it?

My favorite experience in Jeonju was without a doubt the sundae we got from a place in Nambu Market called 조점레 피순대. Its flavor and color was richer and darker than ordinary sundae. I suppose that has something to do with blood being one of the main ingredients. The sausage is tender and melts in your mouth. Make sure to enjoy it with the green onions and the salted shrimp sauce it comes with. **GROOVE**

'JEONJU IS A PLACE PACKED WITH  
QUINTESSENTIAL KOREAN BEAUTY AND  
ALL THE DAINTY PLEASURES THAT COME  
ALONG WITH IT. WE SATISFIED OUR HEALTHY  
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WITH LEGENDARY LOCAL FARE – SHAVED  
ICE WITH RED BEANS (PATBINGSU), THE  
KOREAN BLOOD SAUSAGE (SUNDAE), AND  
OF COURSE, THE BIBIMBAP'

— Kristian Johnson



#### GETTING TO JEONJU BY TRAIN

From Yongsan Station, take either a slow train (Mugunghwa) or express (KTX) to Jeonju Station. The Mugunghwa will take about 3 hours and 30 minutes, while the KTX will get you there in two hours.

#### GETTING TO HANOK VILLAGE FROM JEONJU STATION

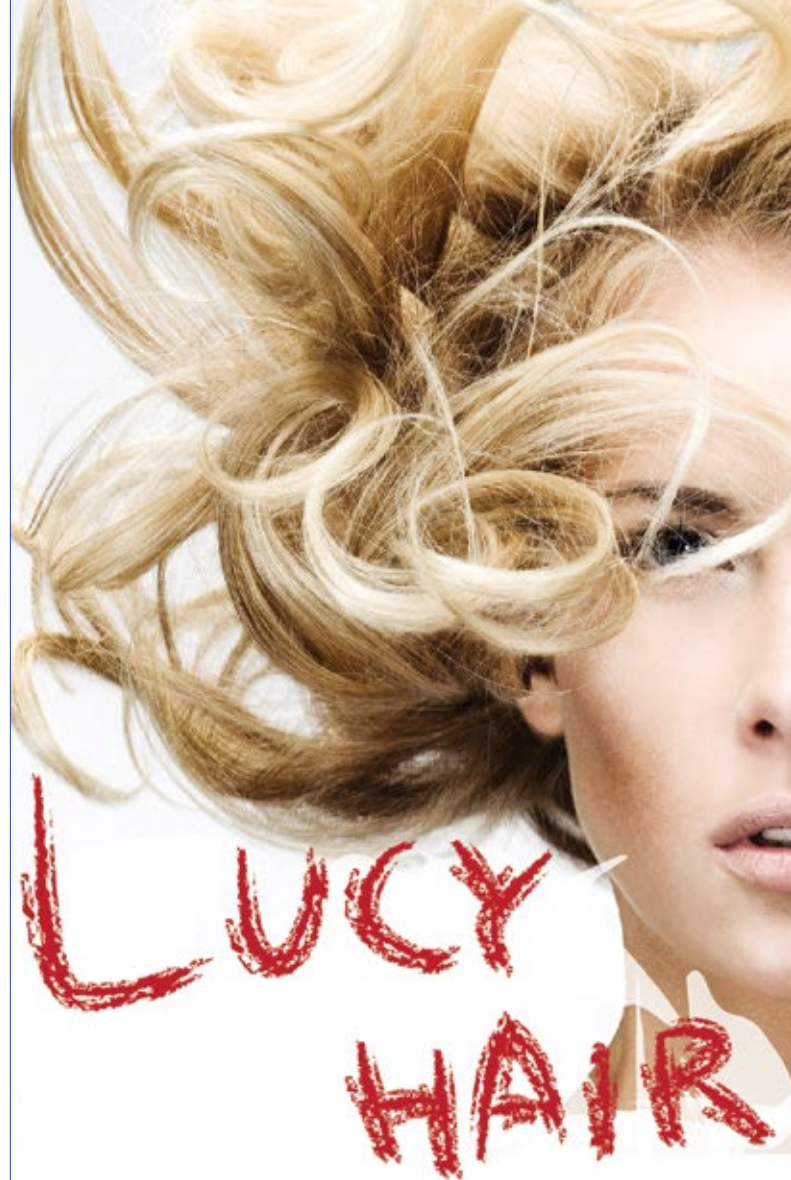
Go to the bus stop in front of the wedding hall adjacent to the station. The following buses will get you there: 12, 60, 79, 109, 119, 142, 508, 513, 536 and 542.

#### GETTING TO JEONJU BY BUS

Board a bus to Jeonju at Central City Terminal in Seoul. It operates between 5:30 a.m. and midnight. Express buses cost 12,800 won and premium buses cost 18,700 won. Both take two hours and 45 minutes.

#### GETTING TO HANOK VILLAGE FROM JEONJU TERMINAL

Board either 5-1 or 79. Both buses will take 15 minutes to reach the village.



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# INDO-MEX

One Hyehwa eatery tries a unique fusion concept — and succeeds

Story and Photos by Peter James Fisher

● In a city with tens of thousands of restaurants, the concept of fusion food is no longer revolutionary. Indeed, it seems like every restaurant from your local *jjigae* joint to bigger chains like Lotteria is adding the word “fusion” to its menu — and then failing miserably at making fusion food.

Then there's Simply India. The Daehangno brainchild of entrepreneur Hwan-gi Choi, Simply India has gone out on a major limb and succeeded. Choi's menu is the product of a true culinary mash up: the fusion of Indian and Mexican cuisines.

Prior to taking on the food-service industry, Choi worked in international trade. While traveling, he noticed that whereas Indian restaurants in Korea were often stuffy and overpriced, Indian places abroad were often fun and casual. He made it his goal to bring inexpensive, authentic Indian food to the peninsula. And what about the Mexican side of the restaurant, you ask? Well, ever the businessman, Choi noticed that Mexican food was catching on in a big way in Korea and decided it'd be the perfect compliment to the Indian dishes he wanted to serve.

Located in a bustling backstreet in the Daehangno area, Simply India is easy to find with its yellow and black sign, which prominently displays one enticing word: *curry*. The interior of the place is a good balance of casual and formal. You'd feel as comfortable here on a first date as you would grabbing a





CHICKEN TIKKA FAJITAS ARE ONE STOMACH-FILLING OPTION; ALL OF THE USUAL FAJITA STAPLES SUCH AS SALAD, CHEESE AND VARIOUS SAUCES ARE PRESENT, ALONG WITH CHICKEN TIKKA. IT ISN'T WRAPPED WITH TORTILLA, THOUGH, BUT SOFT NAAN BREAD.

quick bite with your friends before exploring the area's many nightspots and theaters.

The menu features all of your traditional curry favorites along with various types of rice and naan bread. What's more, there is also the option to try something a little different: one of the Mexican fusion dishes. Chicken Tikka Fajitas are one stomach-filling option; all of the usual fajita staples such as salad, cheese and various sauces are present, along with chicken tikka. It isn't wrapped with tortilla, though, but soft naan bread.

"As you know, Koreans love eating meat with vegetables," Choi says. "Therefore, we make our fajitas so that people can be familiar with them, and love it."

To get a sampling of what the restaurant has to offer, try one of their sets (28,000 won to 32,000 won). There were two of us, and it was more than enough.

So what does the future hold for Simply India and the budding restaurateur? He is succinct when expressing his goal: "I want to become the most popular and trendy Indian restaurant brand in Korea."

With the Hyehwa location as a starting point, he might be well on his way. **GROOVE**



#### GETTING THERE

Simply India (Hyehwa Station, line 4, exit 2)  
Make a U-turn out of Hyehwa Station, exit 2. Take the first street on your right (Daehakno 10-gil). Walk right down to the end and turn left. Simply India is on the left.

Address: Jongno-gu, Dongsung-dong 1-79, Seoul 110-809

Telephone: (02) 744-6333

Open: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.





## JUST SAY NO TO BAD BEER

New taphouse in Itaewon a beer lover's paradise

Story by Groove Staff / Photos by Matthew Lamers

- Reilly's Taphouse, a new gastropub in Itaewon, is setting a precedent for bars serving beer in Korea. Recent changes to Korean law have allowed local craft beer brewers to enter the market. Consumers have become the beneficiaries of this increased choice, which boasts hoppier, richer, stronger and more flavorful beers. For years Korea's three largest brewing companies have limited their selection to lagers and a few stouts. And the average bar in Itaewon only has about eight or nine taps, with two of them a mass produced Korean lager. In contrast, Reilly's Taphouse has 30 taps, serves the top domestic craft brews and the best and most unique imports such as the Japanese brand Hitachino Nest and the famous American brands Lost Coast, Rogue, Anderson Valley, Ballast





Point and Green Flash.

With its wide selection of stouts, IPAs, ales and lagers, it's a beer lover's paradise.

There is also an extensive bottle selection, including top American and Japanese craft beers, and the best Belgian and German beers available in Korea.

If you need help selecting a dish to compliment your choice of beer, Troy Zietlberger can help. He is Korea's only certified cicerone, and is a co-owner of Reilly's Taphouse.

With Zietlberger's extensive knowledge of beer he can help find that unique flavor or taste you are looking for.

Zietlberger is also in charge of brewing and his Espresso Peculiar Dark Ale and Jeju Jubilation IPA have been successful with foreigners and locals alike.

"If you can't find your favorite beer here, let me know and I will find out if it's distributed in Korea, and if it isn't I can look into getting it imported here," says Zietlberger.

And if you cant find a beer to suit your palate at Reilly's Taphouse, then you probably wont be able to find it anywhere in Korea.

GROOVE

IF YOU CANT FIND A BEER TO SUIT YOUR  
PALATE AT REILLY'S TAPHOUSE, THEN  
YOU PROBABLY WONT BE ABLE TO FIND IT  
ANYWHERE IN KOREA.





# CRAVING CRAZY PIZZA?

Seoul's new hotspot proves that it's quality over quantity

**Story by** Ian McClellan / **Photos by** Matthew Lamers

● Be honest, can you really get enough of pizza and beer? If you answered no, you might still be delusional about that ever-elusive beach body. The jig is up; summer is here, so let's indulge.

Seoul has a hot new drinking spot – The Booth. The new pub opened its doors on May 11.

Situated in the same alley as Magpie and El Greco's, The Booth has everything you need for a day or night on the town.

The concept is simple.

"We want to offer great beer and great pizza at a very reasonable price, in a funkily-designed place," says owner Daniel Tudor.

The Booth makes Monster Pizza on location. Originating in Hongdae, Monster Pizza is a delicious pizza that comes in ample portions. Whole pies are available in house or to go, and slices are readily available for only 3,500 won. Currently the choices are limited to cheese and pepperoni, but this will likely expand with time.

Since the pub is new there is only one beer on tap – Bill's Pale Ale. But this beer is nothing to scoff at.

"I can drink Cass for 3,500 won, or pay just a little bit more and have something that tastes really good. I think I'll take the second option," says Tudor.

So for only 5,000 won, you can grab a glass of one the best pale ales in Seoul.

To test this claim, Greg Kodgis, a self-proclaimed beer snob, traveled from Wonju just for a taste. After his first sip



'GREAT BEER AND GREAT PIZZA AT A VERY REASONABLE PRICE.'





he was convinced.

Aside from the great food and beer, what sets this pub apart is the décor. The walls are splashed with pop art ranging from Lichtenstein to Spiderman, and there is a casual spattering of mismatched tables and chairs, giving the space a refreshing, relaxing atmosphere.

The music is an agreeable assortment of pop music. It's not the overpowering racket that many Seoul establishments are guilty of. Also, the entire bar front is a foldout window, making this establishment a great summer hangout.

The staff is friendly and Tudor himself can be seen hopping between tables to ensure that his customers are satisfied.

But perhaps what makes The Booth stand out most is its adaptability. In one day this pub can serve as a spot for a quick lunch, a trendy date and a place to whet your appetite. Whatever your prerogative, The Booth has it covered.

Tudor is hopeful for the future and sees great potential for this ever-changing city.

"In the long run, we want to be part of the beer movement in Korea, expanding outwards from Noksapyeong/Itaewon, and spreading all over the country." **GROOVE**



#### MORE INFO

Address: Yongsan-gu, Itaewon-dong 705, Seoul, Korea 서울 용산구 이태원동 705번지

Telephone:  
(02)1544-4723

#### DIRECTIONS

Go to Noksapyeong Station, exit 2, and walk straight for a few hundred meters until you reach an overpass. Cross the street and descend to the right. Take the first left and go straight until you see The Booth on your left.

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# Deliberately Different Beer

ROCK CREEK DRY CIDER



## 락 크릭 사이다

스타일: 프리미엄 드라이 사이다

도수: 5.5%

색상: 투명한 노랑

주성분: 오카나간 사과와 배

특성: 와인으로 유명한 브리티시 컬럼비아 주 오카나간  
지역의 최고급 사과를 주원료로 엄선하여 최고급  
섬세한 효모로 발효하여 만든 섬세한 맛의 사과주

## ROCK CREEK DRY CIDER

STYLE: Dry Cider.

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME: 5.5%

COLOUR: Light yellow (varies by batch).

KEY INGREDIENTS: Okanagan apples, pears.

CHARACTER: Apple with notes of vanilla and  
cinnamon, mouth feel is crisp and dry.

Do you want to carry Big Rock on tap?  
[sales@bigrockbeer.co.kr](mailto:sales@bigrockbeer.co.kr)



# OUR BEER

Connects us with our friends, family and craft – perfect for just about every occasion, they beg to be shared and celebrated.



**STYLE:** Brown Ale.

**COLOUR:** Deep copper with garnet flashes.

**KEY INGREDIENTS:** Three varieties of hops, and a blend of caramel, pale and black malts.

**CHARACTER:** Fills your mouth with a fusion of toasty malt and sweet caramel up front finishing with a nutty flavour, medium creamy carbonation.



**STYLE:** Wheat Ale.

**COLOUR:** Golden yellow.

**KEY INGREDIENTS:** Three types of pale and wheat malts.

**CHARACTER:** Light on the palate, yet packed with flavour and European hop aroma, with fruity or citrusy notes.



**STYLE:** Dark Lager.

**COLOUR:** Amber with white, billowy head.

**KEY INGREDIENTS:** Blend of pale and caramel malts, as well as honey from Three Hills, and two varieties of hops.

**CHARACTER:** Sweet and honey/molasses flavour, slightly hopped with fuller mouth feel.



**STYLE:** Brown Ale.

**COLOUR:** Warm reddish light brown.

**KEY INGREDIENTS:** Blend of pale, caramel and black malts and a blend of three hop varieties.

**CHARACTER:** Malty with a hint of toffee balanced with very evident hop and followed by a clean finish.



**STYLE:** India Pale Ale.

**COLOUR:** Golden amber.

**KEY INGREDIENTS:** British-style hops known as Fuggles. Seriously.

**CHARACTER:** A classic ale dry hopped to lend a distinctive character. Spicy warm, earthy.



**STYLE:** Scottish Style Heavy Ale.

**COLOUR:** Bronze with toffee tones.

**KEY INGREDIENTS:** Pale malt, caramel malt, peated malt, munich malt, hops.

**CHARACTER:** Strong and full bodied with a complex mix of toffee, caramel, vanilla and a hint of peat.



**STYLE:** Irish Red Ale.

**COLOUR:** Caramel coloured with a reddish hue.

**KEY INGREDIENTS:** Blend of pale, caramel and black malts, and three varieties of hops.

**CHARACTER:** Sweet and hoppy, caramel and dark fruity plum notes.



**STYLE:** Light lime Lager.

**COLOUR:** Soft gold.

**KEY INGREDIENTS:** Pure malted barley, hops, water and lime.

**CHARACTER:** Light body with slight lime aroma and flavour.

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This Will Destroy You

# DISCOVER YOUR DARK SIDE

Interview by Alice Rhee





● On the surface, this may look like a familiar story — a high school band getting that big break. But for This Will Destroy You, it's their dark, atmospheric music that makes their story unique.

This Will Destroy You was formed by a group of high school students from San Marcos, Texas. Their unique sound has often been described as doomgaze — a combination of doom metal and shoegaze. Their music has rocketed up the Billboard charts, garnered critical acclaim and been featured in multiple films and documentaries. Their instrumental songs are intricate — comprised of layers of sound, with each new layer adding an extra level of nuance and complexity.

The guitar and distortion elicit powerful, cathartic responses from both the artist and audience. Their latest album, Tunnel Blanket, explores the darker side of the emotional spectrum and debuted at No. 25 on Billboard.

Catch their cinematic sounds in concert when they tour Korea from June 4 to 8.

THE GUITAR AND DISTORTION  
ELICIT POWERFUL, CATHARTIC  
RESPONSES FROM BOTH THE  
ARTIST AND AUDIENCE.

**Groove Korea: You've scored films and your music has been featured in movies. Can you describe a plotline or scene for a movie that doesn't exist, but you would like to score?**

This Will Destroy You: Jurassic Park vs. Predator

**Touring in a band with your high school friends sounds like the teen dream. Any moments when it actually felt like a teen movie? ("The Hangover"? Or "Scream"?)**

Sometimes touring can be a blast. Other times, it can feel like a nightmare. I'd say that there are always at least five instances per tour where I either feel like things couldn't get any better or that we were all going to die.

**Your live performances create a "wall of sound" ambient effect. If it were possible, would you rather perform at the bottom of the ocean or in the middle of the galaxy, to see how your waves would sound?**

I'd much rather perform at the bottom of the ocean. Fuck space.

**Steve Buscemi featured your song in his Hurricane Sandy aid campaign video. If your reaction upon hearing this news was a TWDY song, describe the guitar line.**

It would just be the opening guitar riff from the "Boardwalk Empire" theme song ... over and over, half speed and with a bunch of reverb.

**Apparently, houseplants respond in growth to certain kinds of music. What do you think would happen to a plant that was only played "Tunnel Blanket"?**

It would die. Slowly.

**What's something you wish all crowds would do? Something you wish they wouldn't do?**

It would be nice if everyone that came to our shows would consider the people around them. Nothing is worse than one asshole talking really loud in the middle of a quiet/respectful crowd.

**Favorite Korean dishes?**

Kimchi, kimchi, kimchi.

GROOVE



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June 5  
JEONJU  
Radio Star  
25,000 won

June 6  
DAEGU  
Urban  
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June 7  
BUSAN  
Vinyl Underground  
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June 8  
SEOUL  
Rolling Hall  
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## ROCK 'N' ROLL

INTERVIEW

A SLEDGEHAMMER  
OF SOUND

USED CASSETTES DISCUSSES THEIR SOUND, KOREA'S MUSIC SCENE AND THEIR NEXT STEP

Interview by Sophie Boladeras / Photos by Kaipaparazzi

● If you've ever likened music to the sound of a sledgehammer wrapped in crushed velvet, then Used Cassettes is the band for you. Their bizarre origin story – beginning one night in 2009, in a hot tub in Seoul, has led to their electric entrance into Seoul's independent music scene.

Their music is the product of a collaborative effort. Each band member participates in songwriting, and they share the role of lead singer. They are all responsible for the high-energy shows that have led to their success in the expat music scene. Moving ahead, the band will not only continue to create and perform their energetic sets, but will also use their newly formed label to help showcase the talents of other artists. Groove Korea had the opportunity to sit down with the members of Used Cassettes to discuss their sound, the Korean music scene and their band's future.

**Groove Korea: How would you describe your sound?**

Danny Arens: Sledgehammer wrapped in crushed velvet.

Matt Spence: Urbanelly mystical.

Ollie Walker: Surf rap.

Patrick Walsh: I try to push us towards a mix of Norwegian black metal and Bone Thugs percussion.

**Tell us about Used Cassettes' inception?**

Patrick: When I came back to Korea in 2009, I was told by Matt, and original member Peter Simms, that I would be drumming with a band they started. I guess it all began with Danny and Peter playing acoustic shows

together back in 2008. They would practice in Peter's kitchen, and people would come to listen. More and more people joined in on the kitchen jams until the original line up was finally formed. We asked Ollie to join last year after Josh Shell went home. Ollie, why did you say yes?

Ollie: I heard the rumors about how much fun you guys have in the hot tub.

**What do you think of the expat music scene in Korea?**

Ollie: We think it's great. Outside of the band, we are really trying to support the music scene, which is the reason why we started Loose Union.





#### CONCERT DATES

June 28 at Prism with Juck Juck Grunzie and Vidulgi Ooyoo

#### MORE INFO

Website: [www.usedcassettes.net](http://www.usedcassettes.net)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/usedcassettes](https://www.facebook.com/usedcassettes)

Listen here: [www.soundcloud.com/used-cassettes](https://www.soundcloud.com/used-cassettes)

Loose Union Label: [www.looseunion.com](http://www.looseunion.com)

Patrick: Yeah, we are currently trying to get Loose Union Records going. It started over a year ago. At first it was just showcasing bands through professionally recorded videos in interesting locations. But now with the help of Brad Wheeler and his wizardly skills behind the mixing board, we have started launching records. So far Used Cassettes, Table People and New Blue Death all have albums out on Loose Union Records.

Ollie: The Killer Drones and Juck Juck Grunzie will also be releasing full-length albums with us soon. So look out for that.

Danny: The Loose Union project is dedicated to shining some light on the local scene. Our website features rad videos of local bands playing live in various spaces including inside a hanok and on a roof in Hongdae.

#### Which expat bands are you into?

Matt: The foreign bands I listen to are Killer Drones, New Blue Death and Table People.

Patrick: Slow Dress are great, too. Plus we all love what the guys from Exit 6 are doing.

Danny: Let's not forget Genius down in Busan.

#### Danny appears to be fluent in Korean. Can all of you speak Korean?

Matt: We all try to pick up Korean where we can. Danny studied really hard for many years and it paid off. Ollie is a full-time Korean student now and is getting better every day. Pat and I periodically dabble in Korean studies, but it is slow going.

#### What Korean bands are you into?

Matt: Love X Stereo, Love Shop, WagWak and

Les Sales.

Pat: Juck Juck Grunzie are probably the best band in Seoul. They have the tightest live shows and all of them are very cool people. 4Brothers are a great rock and roll band. I saw Kyung Bo from 4Brothers ruin a \$3,000 strat last summer and tell me after that it was worth it because they played a great show. The Barberettes are also crazy good, kind of like listening to a choir of angels.

Danny: I have Yukari on repeat at the moment.

Ollie: I'm into everything that's been mentioned plus Today X Spot, The Strikers and Skasucks.

#### What are some aspects about life here that you love?

Matt: The four seasons and the morning calm.

Danny: Older Korean people.

Patrick: Service at my favorite restaurants and the lack of closing times. Mainly though, it's the people that I've met who I have been lucky enough to make music with, they are the reason I haven't moved on yet. The scene here is just starting to take off.

Ollie: Seoul is so full of energy. It's hard to understand why people don't love it. The underground music and creative scenes are really starting to gain momentum and I think that overall that's what keeps me so stoked on Seoul. Within all of the creative chaos there are such talented, genuine and ambitious people living here that it feels like everyone's a huge family individually pushing towards some kind of common goal.

#### I notice that all of you contribute vocally, excluding Patrick.

Patrick: In the past we have had four excellent

lead singers. It seemed kind of redundant to get a fifth mic set up behind the drums. The band went through some line-up changes, so who knows what may happen in the future. But honestly, you should come to our shows and see us live, I think you would agree that singing would just slow me down!

Matt: Danny is going to be taking over lead vocals from here on in. He's the best singer and it will bring some cohesion to our future songs. The rest of us are going to start to add more back ups and harmonies.

#### Are there any recurring themes in your lyrics?

Patrick: Optimism. But usually I try to make up my own lyrics for the songs when I can't hear what is being sung. It's mostly a reflection of what everyone else has done the weekend before.

#### What do you have lined up for the future?

Patrick: Loose Union, AFM (clothing company) and AWEH will be joining forces to promote awareness for Amnesty International in Korea. We have a party planned for early June, and hopefully we can get more people involved in Amnesty International's projects in Korea. We are getting the details sorted now but keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information.

Danny: We are currently collaborating on some video projects with some very talented Korean teams. It's under wraps for now but much freshness to come this summer.

#### How can our readers get a hold of your music?

Patrick: Our last two EP's are up on SoundCloud. You can also download both albums on iTunes.





# KOREA ROCKS ... IN THE U.K.

4 INDIE BANDS, 8 SHOWS

**Story by** Maia Parker / **Photos by** Hospital Photography

● For four of Seoul's prominent indie acts, this was no ordinary tour. Galaxy Express, Apollo 18, Goonam and Gate Flowers embarked on an eight-concert tour through England and Wales from April 24 to May 5. Sponsored by Hyundai Card Music, it included festival appearances at Focus Wales and Liverpool Sound City, and club shows in Tunbridge Wells, London and Manchester.

"I'm fucking tired," Joh Ung, the guitarist for groovy psychedelic soul/pop group Goonam, said after the tour, laughing. "Korea Rocks was really good, but the schedule was really busy. There were things planned for us each day, with the concerts, interviews and even a recording session so there wasn't much time to relax."

The recording session happened in London. Hyundai Card Music booked time at the renowned Air Studios, which was founded by The Beatles' producer George Martin. Something from the sessions which will definitely be cool to hear is a new Apollo 18 cut featuring guest vocals from Goonam's

Joh. The collaboration was completely unplanned.

"This tour definitely strengthened our relationship with the other bands," says Kim Dae-inn, the bassist for post-hardcore/post-rock act Apollo 18.

"The tour was a great experience," adds Yeom Seung-shik, the guitarist for grungy rockers Gate Flowers. Korea Rocks was Gate Flowers' first time performing abroad.

"We felt that this tour was the first step in us trying to take things to the next level with our band," says Yeom. "It was a fantastic opportunity and we're grateful that we could be a part of it."

All of the bands agree that the show at Liverpool Sound City was the best of the tour.

Korea Rocks held both an official nighttime showcase and a daytime event at the Liverpool music fest. The latter, which the Liverpool Daily Echo newspaper's Getintothis blog called "the highlight" of LSC's closing day, ended with an impromptu jam session that featured members of Galaxy





'WE FELT THAT THIS TOUR WAS THE FIRST STEP IN US TRYING TO TAKE THINGS TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH OUR BAND.'

Express, Apollo 18, Goonam and Gate Flowers turning out a wonderfully messy version of Led Zeppelin's "Immigrant Song."

"The atmosphere at the day party was fantastic," says Park Jong-hyun, the guitarist for psychedelic garage rockers Galaxy Express.

Although Apollo 18 have toured Japan, Taiwan, the United States and Canada on their own, Korea Rocks was their first time gigging abroad alongside other Korean groups, which led them to an observation about the audiences on both continents.

"The crowds in North America and the U.K. were both really kind and friendly," said Apollo 18's Kim. "But I think North American audiences are louder and more energetic. U.K. audiences are more relaxed."

Galaxy Express' Park chimed in: "I also think the U.K. crowds were a bit more chilled."

"Another thing I noticed was that after shows, American audiences talk a lot to the bands but only buy a small amount of merchandise. On this tour, the U.K. show-goers only talked a little to the bands but then bought lots of merch. People buying more merch is always a very good thing!" **GROOVE**

Gate Flowers go sightseeing.

Goonam's Byung-hak performs at Liverpool Sound City festival.



Apollo 18 performs in Manchester.



#### MORE INFO

Korea Rocks  
[www.facebook.com/KoreaRocks](http://www.facebook.com/KoreaRocks)

Galaxy Express  
[www.facebook.com/GalaxyExpressKR](http://www.facebook.com/GalaxyExpressKR)

Apollo 18  
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Goonam  
[www.facebook.com/goonamgua](http://www.facebook.com/goonamgua)

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'IT WAS A SIMPLE REASON TO START A MUSIC BAR. I JUST LOVED THE MUSIC AND WANTED TO MAKE A FREE PLACE WITHOUT GENRES. YES, I WAS DREAMING – BUT SOME MUSICIANS WHO PLAYED THE GUITAR WELL STARTED PLAYING COVERS, AND THEN THEIR FRIENDS PLAYED OR OTHER GOOD INDIE BANDS DID. THEY WERE NOT PROFESSIONAL, BUT IT WAS PRECIOUS TO ME.'

— Oh Myoung-ae,  
The Factory's owner





# ON JEJU,

## A HAVEN FOR ROCK 'N' ROLL

A character all its own, and it's more than rolling hills and crisp blue seas

Story by Timothy Cushing / Photos by Michelle Gow

● Nestled next to a love motel in Jeju's bustling City Hall district — an area packed with cars, bars and neon lights — and up a dingy flight of stairs is the Factory. It's easy to miss the Warhol banana that marks the entrance, but attracting foot traffic is beside the point. The Factory's clientele come by word of mouth, welcomed into a loyal circle and greeted by Oh Myoung-ae, the pleasantly enigmatic owner sitting behind the dark bar.

I first read about the watering hole in my compulsory copy of *Lonely Planet Korea* shortly before moving to Korea in 2011. Thumbing through the disappointingly short section allotted to Jeju, I came across their write-up of the Factory. I dog-eared it based on the simple description: a rock 'n' roll bar with friendly management.

With Jeju's rolling hills, crisp blue oceans and dramatic volcanic mountain at its center, I expected to find the island crawling with artists. I imagined colonies of dreadlocked expats hanging out around beachside barrel fires during long-winded acoustic jam sessions and landscape painters living monastically in the jungle. I partially blame these misconceptions on the aggressive UNESCO bid that hailed Jeju as the "Hawaii of Asia," a campaign which eventually succeeded in securing its spot as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

For better or worse, however, Jeju has a character all its own. Littered with hundreds of strange museums frequented by droves of tour buses and their attendant tourists, the island is in flux.

When it comes to tapping into the tourist market, one popular idea is to offer visitors a more convenient, sanitized, comfortable version of nature — rock-shaped speakers discreetly pipe music all the way up the rubber-treaded ascent of Jeju's famed Sunrise Peak, while convenience stores are located every few kilometers on a trail to the top of Mount Halla.

As I saw it, this facade of tourism and familiarity was not far removed from the K-pop littering the airways. "Mr. Simple" pumped from phone accessory booths, batting cages, elevators and electronics stores; always, it seemed, accompanied by neon sign boards flashing the Hangul characters that I had learned to read but didn't know the meaning of. It all came together in

some strange validation of Jeju's catchphrase, "We love having you here."

One Saturday, a few co-workers and I walked past the arcades advertising 4D, Korean barbecue joints and chain coffee shops before we made our way to a cheap hotel. We dropped our bags in a 70s-era room with mysterious copper-red smudges on the wall and immediately stepped back into the dingy hallway to go out for the night. As my gaze slowly moved up from the decaying carpet and atrocious floral wallpaper, I looked out the grimy window and saw the faint neon glow of a banana.

The Factory immediately feels familiar, with its L-shaped countertop at the back of the room, tables scattered throughout and stage with a large screen. There's a comfortable level of seediness to the place and its dark walls are painted with inspirational quotes.

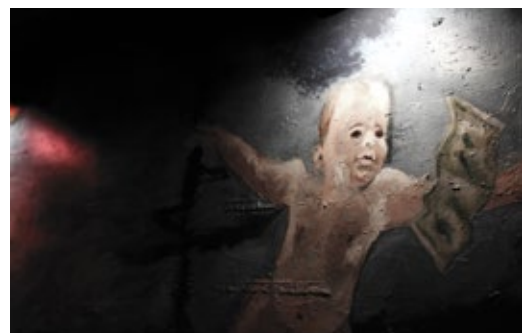
I ordered a pint of Red Rock, and the bartender struck up a conversation.

This was my introduction to the Jeju music scene. After a month of divining in the desert, I had struck the main nerve and at the helm of the machine was Myoung-ae, an outgoing woman with an infectious smile and passion for independent music.

Myoung-ae's interest in music began at an early age when her sister gave her an album by the Korean psychedelic band 산울림 (Sanullim). She fell in love with The Beatles' "Rubber Soul," Pat Metheny and Charlie Haden's "Beyond the Missouri Sky," Korean bands Frida Kahlo and Sanullim, and The Velvet Underground and Nico. She sought out live music on Jeju and remembers the band Crying Nut as her first memorable live show.

At the time, Jeju presented some problems for an aspiring art lover. "It was just like a hell! My friends didn't like books, news, culture and history. My school teachers were so classic. That's why I went to university in Busan," she explains.

As Myoung-ae pursued studies in journalism, her politics grew increasingly radical and she became a head editor of multiple anti-government publications. Friends urged her to pursue journalism following graduation, but Myoung-ae had reservations. "I thought that revolution in Korean politics was impossible. Only in



'OUR COUNTRY IS SO  
SERIOUS AND HEAVY  
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SO I WANT TO TELL  
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OUR LIFE! NOT SO FAR  
FROM YOU!'

— Oh Myoung-ae,  
*The Factory's owner*



#### ADDRESS

1180-1 Ido 2-dong, Jeju City, Jeju-do, South Korea

#### GETTING THERE

From the City Hall bus stop in Jeju City, walk past the Tom N Toms Coffee and take the first left. The Factory will be a block down on your right on the second floor above a boutique called Gentlewoman. Look for the Andy Warhol banana.

#### ONLINE

[www.facebook.com/jejufactory](http://www.facebook.com/jejufactory)

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culture, it seemed to be possible." She returned to Jeju and started putting together a plan for a bar.

The Factory opened in July of 2007 as Myoung-ae's way to introduce the music she loved to her native Jeju, an island whose scene she still describes as "stiff and classic."

"It was a simple reason to start a music bar. I just loved the music and wanted to make a free place without genres. Yes, I was dreaming — but some musicians who played the guitar well started playing covers, and then their friends played or other good indie bands did. They were not professional but it was precious to me."

As far as artists go, Warhol is not at the top of Myoung-ae's list, but his scene and relationships with younger generations of artists was more central to her vision. "Actually, my favorite artist is Basquiat," she says. "I just borrowed Warhol's banana and Factory. My favorite albums, artists and musicians are all related to Warhol and his Factory." Basquiat himself famously rendered Warhol as a banana in his 1984 painting "Brown Spots."

Myoung-ae has been able to attract as loyal a following as one can expect from a clientele with a one- to two-year expiration date. In addition to expat patrons, she has cultivated a group of consistent Korean performers and drinkers, with occasional acts from Seoul. Most recently, she's taken with the positively charged ska music of South Carnival.

The bar is also home to whatever ideas clients can sell to Myoung-ae; on any given weekend, one can find anything from open mics, ska bands and holiday parties to metal bands, 8-bit DJs, indie bands and theme nights.

Of course, it's not perfect. Jeju's Factory is not the bastion of subversive art, music and fashion that the original was. The Jimi Hendrix quotes and pictures of Kurt Cobain could easily read as tacky — like a Led Zeppelin t-shirt from Hot Topic — if not for the owner's sincerity. Myoung-ae's singular vision of an open and friendly music bar seems to magically attract like-minded individuals.

It's this sincerity that keeps people coming back, despite the occasional 30-minute session of Middle-Earth inspired classical guitar or acoustic covers of "Hey Ya." I ended up becoming a regular on the Factory stage myself, and the bar even compensates for my frequent performances. The point is that the crowd is supportive and patrons are often more interested in soaking up the bar's creative feeling than being there explicitly for the music.

One thing that Myoung-ae can't control is the entertainment market; Jeju is small enough that a volleyball tournament can kill business for an evening. The Factory is, however, a consistent go-to for the Saturday evening parties that seem to be an island tradition. Even on off-nights, one will find Myoung-ae tending bar and curating YouTube music videos to project onstage.

Nor is music on Jeju limited to the Factory. Sixty kilometers away in the southern city of Seogwipo, a hole-in-the-wall called Café MayB hosts acoustic-based material and several well-known indie acts, including Fortune Cookie's Yoo Hee Jong. Tiny theaters speckle Jeju City, attracting a refreshingly high percentage of ajumma to even the loudest and most experimental of performances.

Nevertheless, Myoung-ae is as good a Warhol as this small island could ask for. It seems that anyone even faintly connected to music knows her and her bar. In addition to running the Factory, she has co-founded the Iho Beach music festival, an event that is now in its third year running.

Myoung-ae remains self-deprecating, expressing gratitude for any attention paid to her "small and shabby" establishment. Asked about her hopes for 2013, she says that a main goal is to "make an ongoing experimental show." Beyond that, she hopes that musicians from other cities visit and mix to create a unique Korean scene. "Our country is so serious and heavy about life and music, so I want to tell them: music is like a romance or picnic in our life! Not so far from you!" **GROOVE**

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ARTIST'S JOURNEY

A woman with long brown hair is sitting on a green, textured surface, possibly a lawn or a large piece of fabric. She is wearing a pink bikini top with a purple flower detail, a grey skirt, and red high-heeled sandals. She is holding a large slice of watermelon in her lap and has a small amount of watermelon juice on her chin. She is surrounded by numerous potted plants of various types, including some with pink flowers and others with green foliage. The background is dark, suggesting an outdoor setting at night.

## ARTIST'S JOURNEY

Interview with FraiseVinyl: erotic photographer, videographer and performance artist

Interview by Alison Hjelseth / Photos courtesy FraiseVinyl

● Hailing from the south of France, the multifaceted FraiseVinyl works in film, dance, performance art and photography. Her works examine the topics of sexuality and self-expression in a delicate balance between the dreamlike and the nightmarish. Artist's Journey's Alison Hjelseth sat down with the artist to talk erotic art, the power of burlesque and breaking taboos.



**Artist's Journey: How does the lifestyle and mindset in France compare with what you find here in Korea?**

FraiseViny: I never felt so censored before. It's the first time in my life I've seen so many people not able to enjoy their own life and follow their dreams, but instead copy what society wants them to do (good school, job, marriage, etc.). I've met several people who, when I ask them if they are happy, they answer, "No."

This sadness, and a superficial vision of beauty, it damages individuals' ability to accept themselves so much. So, as a French woman, I try to be independent, natural and strong — a feminist enjoying my life and happy in the present.

**I understand your time working here hasn't always been easy because of that difference in culture.**

Yes, it's difficult because of language barriers; you have to trust your manager. Maybe they tell you that a project is a sexy comedy, but in fact it's a low-quality erotic play requiring full nudity, and they don't protect you from your director or guarantee that you're paid for your time. In fact, I'm still waiting for my final wages after the closure of the play "Wonchojeok Bonneung (Basic Instinct)" in February. My managers and the play's director are no longer taking my calls. It's frustrating.

**Your art is often very erotic. What is the purpose behind making such sexually charged art, for you?**

In fact, it comes from my personal experience. When I was young, sexuality was a big taboo. When I was 6, my parents divorced, and for 10 years my father raised me as a Jehovah's Witness, so I felt sexuality was dirty and not normal, which is sad. I want to break that taboo about enjoying sexuality because it's a natural part of life.

My work is about dreams and frustration — it's politically engaged queer art. I try to make people think about all expressions of sexuality and sexual identity, through photography, video and performances. By making dreamlike, "beautiful things," my images are easy to approach without fear, but finally the viewer falls into the depths of it, falls into a nightmare with a "perverted" — that is, taboo — purpose.

**Another thing you are often known for is your burlesque performances. How did you initially get into burlesque?**

Yes, for one year I've been with the WhiteLies Burlesque Revue. I really love doing it. I've dreamed about it since I was 12 after I watched a documentary about the famous French cabaret troupe "Crazy Horse," but finally I was several centimeters too short to join them!

But burlesque, specifically neo-burlesque, has continued to inspire my work. For me, it's a way to express all your sensuality. Our leader, Nell Fox, likes to explain that it's "the art of tease" — and she's right. But I like to push it, and make it not an expression of the heterosexual norm, but an artistic act that is open, feminist and powerful.

**How do you feel a Korean audience responds to burlesque performances compared to a Western audience, and what is the value of burlesque here?**

The Korean audience is really cute and respectful and much more innocent when they come to see us, because actually we are the only group in Seoul doing burlesque —

that I know of — so it is new. First they are surprised, and it makes them also a little uncomfortable, but they finally really enjoy it. A Western audience, even if they've never seen a live burlesque show before, they know more what to expect.

Actually it's been hard for us to find venues because people can easily misunderstand our work — they imagine girls who do striptease don't respect themselves. But actually, it's very different: It's more of a stage production with costumes and scenes, like at the Moulin Rouge. So, as I do my artwork, burlesque is equally important for promoting the political message of freedom.

"OUR LIVES, LIKE OUR BODIES, ARE OUR OWN  
— AND WHILE IT IS EASY TO FOLLOW, IT IS  
MUCH MORE INTERESTING TO CHANGE THINGS  
AND MAKE THEM AS BEAUTIFUL AS POSSIBLE."

**What is your goal for your art, and for yourself as an artist, in Korea?**

I hope to always have the ability to do my art and express myself — and I hope to stay in Korea for a long time! As an artist and burlesque performer, I hope I can help in my way and be a part of the evolution of people's minds, opening them up, because of the damage I've seen to people who can't reveal their homosexuality, or who have to pursue studies they don't like, or who have pressure from their families to marry — whatever I can do to help them realize their dreams. Our lives, like our bodies, are our own — and while it is easy to follow, it is much more interesting to change things and make them as beautiful as possible. **GROOVE**



**? ABOUT THE ARTIST**

To see more of FraiseViny's work, visit her Facebook page of the same name, or her website, [fraisevinyphotographer.tumblr.com](http://fraisevinyphotographer.tumblr.com).

**ABOUT THIS COLUMN**

Interviews for this column are by Wilfred Lee or Alison Hjelseth, and transcribed and written by Alison Hjelseth. Artist's Journey brings you daily doses of inspiration, including weekly podcasts featuring artists from around the globe. Learn more at [facebook.com/myartistsjourney](https://facebook.com/myartistsjourney) or [www.artistsjourney.org](http://www.artistsjourney.org). — Ed.

# AT THE BOX OFFICE THE BIG SCREEN

By Dean Crawford

## Man of Steel

Directed by **Zack Snyder**

June  
13 Action / Adventure  
148 minutes



● In the sanctuary of the world's superheroes, there is no doubting the popularity of Superman. Over time, the Man of Steel has been the subject of not only five movies, but also two TV shows broadcast decades apart. In 2010, a copy of Action Comics No. 1, the very first Superman comic, sold for over \$1 million. Superman is without a doubt the most famous superhero there is.

Be that as it may, I'm sorry to break it to you Superman fans — he is also the most boring! Seriously, what are you supposed to do with a character who is practically invincible?

Therein lies the biggest problem with the last Superman adaptation back in 2006. Bryan Singer's critical flop was basically a rehash of "Superman" (1978), but a lot creepier, with Kal-El stalking Lois Lane and spying on her through walls. In my opinion, people don't want to see Superman struggling with his inner feelings or pining over his lost love. They want to see him fly, shoot lasers out of his eyes and fight a super villain whose grand scheme doesn't involve kryptonite or, as in the Singer version, making money off of real estate.

With this new incarnation, we hopefully now have the Superman film everyone has been waiting for, with Snyder, the director of "300" and "Watchmen," at the helm. In addition to Snyder, "Man of Steel" is being produced by Christopher Nolan and is based on an original idea from David Goyer,

bringing together a fresh team with a considerable amount of experience in the action genre.

The film is an origin story that follows a young Clark Kent (Henry Cavill) as he discovers that he is not from Earth. As a young man, Clark searches for the reason why he was sent to this planet, but discovers his true potential when Earth comes under attack by the Kryptonian villain, the evil General Zod (Michael Shannon).

It seems like Nolan has had some influence on the tone of the film, keeping it grounded in "reality." His involvement gives me hope that it won't be cheesy in any way, and that we really will see a different side of the character that we haven't seen before. My only real concern is how much time the film will spend on his origins. Everybody knows this story already, and anyone who is familiar with "Smallville" (2001-2011) will know how tough it was for Clark Kent growing up.

The final trailer looks fantastic and action-packed, but I worry that all the super action will take place at the end of the film. It worked in "Batman Begins" (2005), but if I'm forced to watch 90 minutes of an emo Clark Kent skulking around before he finally puts on the suit, I won't be too happy.

However, given the success of the Nolan/Goyer partnership on "The Dark Knight" trilogy, and seeing how bloody cool the film looks in the hands of Zack Snyder, I think we're all in for a treat. **GROOVE**

## After Earth

Directed by **M. Night Shyamalan**

June  
30 Action / Sci-fi  
143 minutes



● Back in 1999, M. Night Shyamalan pulled a move so bold that even Keyser Söze would have been proud, tricking the world into thinking he was the next Orson Welles with his debut movie, "The Sixth Sense" (1999). Extremely well directed, a 2010 poll reported by The Guardian voted it as the film with the best twist, beating classics such as "Psycho" (1960), "Planet of the Apes" (1968) and "The Usual Suspects" (1995). Since he burst onto the scene with "The Sixth Sense," however, Shyamalan's films have been one huge disappointment after another. With every new release of an "M. Night Shyamalan film," there was always the faint glimmer of hope that he would recapture some that former glory, but sadly, he never did. Here are some of the highlights (spoiler alert):

"Unbreakable" (2000) — Turns out you're actually watching a superhero movie and Sam Jackson is the super villain. Hmm. Interesting idea, I guess.

"Signs" (2002) — Alien gets killed by a glass of water. Oh wow, that was a good twist! Actually, what? Why would an alien race whose only weakness is moisture invade a planet that is 70 percent water?

"The Village" (2004) — They're all actually living in a forest in the present day. Not bad. Maybe his next film will be great again?

"The Happening" (2008) — My god, "The Happening." The one time I wanted a twist, I didn't get it. It was revealed

about two-thirds of the way into the movie that it was the trees killing everybody and then, well, that was it. The film was the most expensive infomercial against hurting the environment I have ever seen!

And then throw in "Lady in the Water" (2006), which I thought was his best film since "The Sixth Sense," and "The Last Airbender" (2010), and you have a pretty mixed body of work.

So it was interesting to note that at no point in the promotional material for his new movie, "After Earth," is there any mention that this is an M. Night Shyamalan film.

Well, that appears to be because this one has been planted firmly in the hands of Will Smith. Smith is the producer and came up with the film's core concept of a father and son crashing their vehicle in the mountains and the son having to go for help.

The film is set 1,000 years in the future on an abandoned Earth after all the animals have evolved to kill humans. Cypher Raige (Smith) and his son Kitai (real life son Jaden Smith) crash land on Earth where Kitai must navigate the monsters and harsh terrain to signal for help.

The internet is already abuzz, wondering whether or not Shyamalan has added a final twist to the movie. But I wonder: Will the twist ultimately be that Shyamalan lives up to the early hype and makes a good movie again? Let's hope so. **GROOVE**



# KOREAN DVD CORNER

## THE SMALL SCREEN

By Dean Crawford

### Pieta (피에타)

Directed by **Kim Ki-duk**

PG-  
18 Drama  
104 minutes



While Park Chan-wook ("Stoker," 2013) and Kim Jee-woon ("The Last Stand," 2013) might be the current directorial faces of Korean cinema after having made their Hollywood debuts, Kim Ki-duk is arguably the most critically acclaimed. Even if he hadn't won awards at some of the world's most prominent film festivals (including Cannes and Berlin), he is certainly the most prolific, having directed 18 films in a little over 16 years. His latest film is "Pieta," a brutal look at the relationship between a mother and son in the midst of Korea's criminal underworld. The work went on to win the Golden Lion at last year's Venice Film Festival — an achievement that marks the first time a Korean film has won the top prize at one of the three biggest film festivals in Europe.

The film follows Kang-do, a vicious loan shark. If you don't repay your debt, which is a rather likely fate given the excessive amount of interest he charges, he will either break your legs, cut off a hand or throw you off a building so his boss can claim your insurance money as a way to cover what is owed.

Kang-do is ruthless and unemotional, but seems content in his simplistic daily routine. His life is complicated by the appearance of a woman who claims to be his mother who abandoned him as a child.

"Pieta" takes its name from the sculpture by Michelange-

lo that depicts the Virgin Mary cradling Jesus. Once you've seen the film, it becomes clear why Kim chose "Pieta" for the title, but the relationship between this particular mother and son differs greatly from that portrayed in Michelangelo's masterpiece. This is a brutal, almost unwatchable relationship, as Kang-do challenges his mother to prove herself in some disturbing ways.

The film is shot in typical Kim Ki-duk style: simple, with long, uninterrupted takes allowing his actors to shine. And shine they do, with Jo Min-su winning several awards for her portrayal of the tortured Jang Mi-sun.

It has been suggested that, despite the film's art-house exterior, "Pieta" is ultimately nothing more than a generic Korean revenge movie. I think this claim is absurd. Yes, the film does change from a slow-burning character study into what could be perceived to be a revenge piece, but the film is so much more than that. As the plot slowly unfolds, the motivations of the main characters are significantly blurred to the point where we are very unsure of what exactly we should be feeling or with whom we should be siding. Right up to the final moments, Kim plays with our expectations, leaving the viewer shocked, upset and possibly confused.

"Pieta" is an unsettling yet highly rewarding film that is widely available on DVD now. **GROOVE**

### Breath (숨)

Directed by **Kim Ki-duk**

PG-  
15 Drama  
84 minutes



After watching Kim Ki-duk's "Pieta," which was the first Korean film to win the top honor at one of the three major film festivals (Cannes, Berlin and Venice), I decided to take a look at one of his films that came close to winning at the Cannes film festival but didn't — the 2007 film "Breath."

Much like the majority of Kim's works, "Breath" focuses on the relations and interactions between an unlikely couple. Yeon (Park Ji-a) is a depressed housewife who spends all her time at home by herself. She is clearly unhappy with her life and yearns for something more from the universe.

As a way of dealing with this loneliness (and paired with the discovery of her husband's infidelity), she decides to visit death row inmate Jang Jin (Chang Chen) after hearing about several of his suicide attempts on the news. Even though there appears to be no apparent connection between the two, we watch as Yeon continues to visit Jin on several occasions. And even though Yeon's husband (Ha Jeong-woo) finds out about the affair and demands that she stop, she continues it until the final moment of Jin's life.

"Breath" offers its viewers no clear explanations, and you are forced to make your own conclusions about its ending. It is also unclear as to whether Yeon and Jin knew each other before their first actual encounter at the prison, nor

do we really fully understand her motivations for starting and ending the relationship. She talks to Jin as if he was her best friend and kisses him as if they had always been lovers but, as far as we know, they had never met previously.

And who is the mysterious Inspector Gadget-like villain, watching and controlling from behind the monitor in the prison? Some have suggested it is Kim himself, not only guiding events from outside the movie, but inside as well. Once again, no clear answers are provided.

The directing and acting are both excellent, and I particularly love how the film opts for a "less is more" approach.

Absent is the flashy editing that often defines the genre and, instead, the characters say more to each other with subtle, pensive glances.

Rather than emphasizing each word of dialogue, speakers are framed offscreen so we can focus on the visible character's reactions.

At times, "Breath" plays out more like a theater production with very few verbal exchanges between the prisoners and Kim's trademark long takes using a free-roaming camera. It was refreshing to see.

"Breath" is widely considered to be inferior to some of Kim's other films, but I thoroughly enjoyed it and would definitely recommend it to fans of his work. **GROOVE**



## HOSPITALS ARE BATTLEFIELDS

'The Orderly' brings original performance from N.Z. to Korea.

**Story and Photos by** Daniel White

● Meet Peter. An orderly man during the week and a ferocious warrior on the weekend. As he prepares for the weekend's battle against the notorious Vikings, a long day at work changes his life. Time flickers. Empty hospital wards turn into long-forgotten battlefields and everybody fights for their lives. This is the basis for "The Orderly," Probationary Theatre's next production, in association with The Rebel Alliance. It is a funny and moving insight into the heart of one of life's foot soldiers.

"The Orderly" arrives on Korean shores for six shows from June 21 to 30.

"The Orderly" is inspired by the life of the now deceased Peter Russell. Writer-performer Michael Downey met him when the former worked as an orderly at Auckland's North Shore Hospital. Russell, a small and frail man, was an orderly during the week and fought as a viking on weekends as the member of the historical re-enactment group, the Auckland Norse.

The play blends the world of the hospital with that of an ancient battlefield. Downey takes on all the parts of the play; ranging from the gorgeous nurse Donna to a semi-nude Viking berserker high on mushrooms and lusting for blood.

After taking "The Orderly" on a successful tour of New Zealand in 2006, Downey's company, The Rebel Alliance, went on to produce several acclaimed theatre pieces. **GROOVE**

THE PLAY BLENDS THE  
WORLD OF THE HOSPITAL  
WITH THAT OF AN ANCIENT  
BATTLEFIELD.



### WHERE/WHEN

"The Orderly" arrives on Korean shores for six shows from June 21 to 30. The show will be performed at White Box Theatre in Hyochang Park.

### TICKETS

Tickets are 15,000 won. For more information and bookings visit [www.probationarytheatre.com](http://www.probationarytheatre.com).



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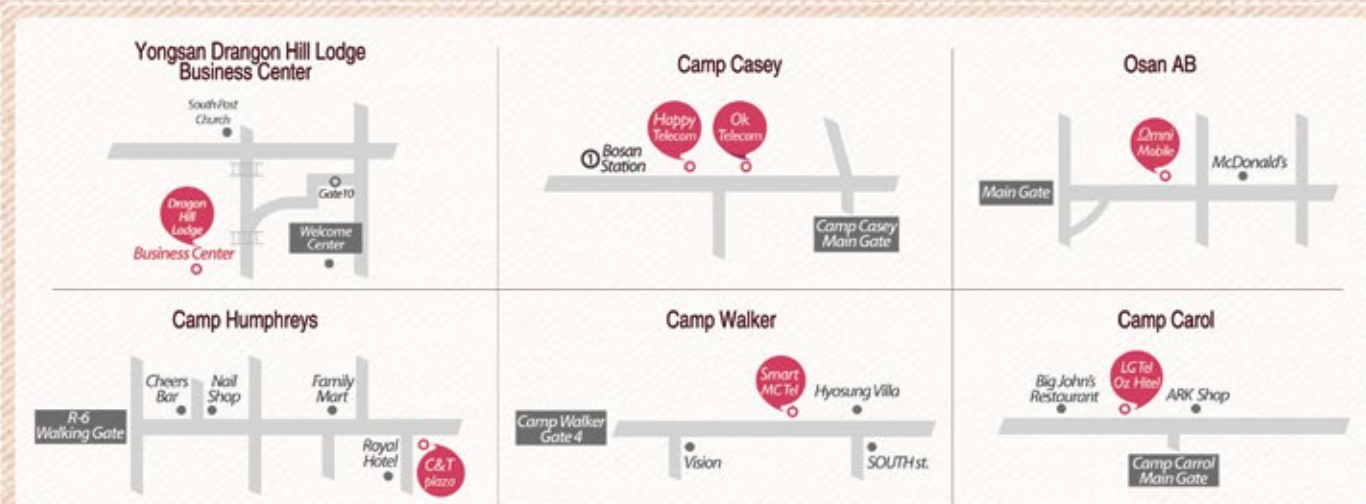
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# DIVE IN WITH DEEP BLUE QUEST

Learn to dive with Korea's first English-speaking PADI dive shop

Story by Ken Hall

● The turquoise waters of Thailand and the colorful coral in Malaysia draw in scores of divers yearly. But for Russell Krogh, Korea's waters also have a lot to offer.

Krogh came to Korea more than 25 years ago; first as a soldier, then as a college professor. He began diving in Korea in the 1980s, but recently decided to turn his hobby into a profession.

Krogh opened Deep Blue Quest in Paju in 2003. His dive shop is the only English-speaking five-star PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) Instructor Development Center in Korea.

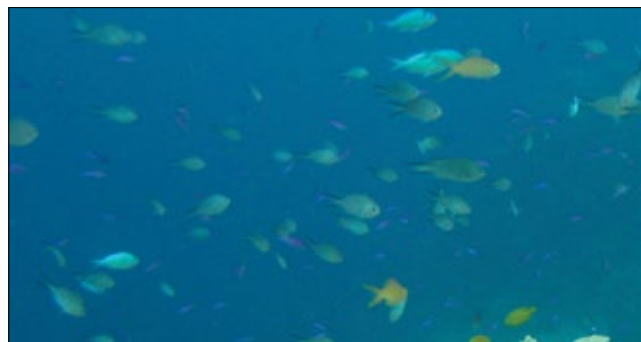
"If you can dive in Korea or learn to dive in Korea, you can dive anywhere in the world because there is so much diversity," Krogh says.

Whether you are a first-time diver looking to learn a new skill, or an advanced diver eager to discover the secrets of the ocean, Krogh says Deep Blue Quest can help.

"First-time students can expect to see schools of fish, octopuses, sea urchins, sea cucumbers and, at certain times of the year, kelp beds." Students in advanced classes, however, are given the opportunity to observe soft coral, hard coral and underwater wrecks.

But Krogh's work isn't just about diving. He's also committed to protecting his divers and the environment.

"(Dive resorts) have become safer. The equipment and the diving facilities have become more upgraded. Also, Korea is starting to become more environmentally aware," Krogh says. "Ten years ago, it was like pulling teeth to get people to come help with beach cleanups."





'IF YOU CAN DIVE IN KOREA OR LEARN TO DIVE IN KOREA, YOU CAN DIVE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD BECAUSE THERE IS SO MUCH DIVERSITY.'

— Russell Krogh

#### Environmental awareness

One of Krogh's goals at Deep Blue Quest is to prepare students with the tools needed to dive anywhere in the world while also respecting the environment around them.

The company's environmental focus reflects PADI's close association with Project AWARE, a non-profit organization that promotes underwater conservation in the diving community.

Students at Deep Blue Quest can take courses in AWARE Coral Reef Conservation, AWARE Fish Identification or become a Project AWARE Specialist. Krogh himself promotes this environmental cause through regular beach cleanups. Past cleanups have involved pulling an old refrigerator and even a motorcycle from the water.

#### Finding the right class

Deep Blue Quest offers a range of courses from traditional to specialty certifications. The beginner open-water course accounts for 70 percent of their clientele, but they offer a wide range of dive courses — with the exception of tec (or technical) diving. The more extreme branch of scuba diving, technical diving refers to complicated, higher-risk dives that fall outside the realm of being recreational, commercial or research-related. Holding back from teaching tec diving, however, doesn't mean that Krogh and his team are shying away from PADI's more specialized offerings.

"As of January, we can (even) certify ice diving," Krogh says.

For those hoping to become professional divers, Deep Blue Quest offers full-time and part-time internships. These internships involve training to become a dive master or instructor, as well as the experience of working in a PADI dive shop.

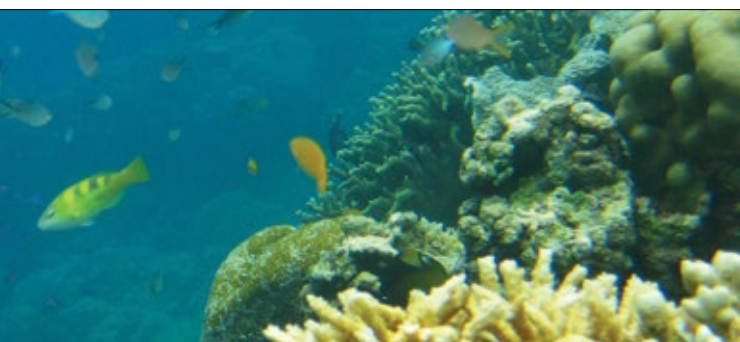
And for those wishing to explore new waters, there are regular dive trips to Jeju Island, as well as three international dive trips per year.

"We just got back from a trip to Okinawa and are looking at going to the Philippines and back to Okinawa," Krogh says.

Regular courses are listed on their events calendar, and specialty and advanced courses can be arranged with at least a week's notice.

"Hey, want to learn to scuba dive? I can help you out," Krogh says.

GROOVE



#### MORE INFO

Go to their website, [www.deepbluequest.com](http://www.deepbluequest.com).  
Call Russell Krogh at 010-2289-9024.



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**LEE JAE-HO, D.D.S., M.S.D., Ph.D.**

Professor, Dept. of Pediatric Dentistry, Director of Continuing Education Center  
Yonsei University Dental Hospital

# DENTAL CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Tips for parents on how to promote oral health

● For children, most dentists are scary. It is common for children under the age of 3 to cry or scream when they undergo dental procedures and examinations.

But after a child passes this age, their objections give way, and they are more willing to cooperate with dentists during dental examinations and treatments.

However, the same cannot be said for children who suffer from developmental disabilities. They are often unable to understand the importance of proper oral hygiene, so it is more difficult to ensure their continued oral health.

Dental problems are easy to develop, but difficult to treat. There are two main types: congenital diseases such as malocclusion and morphological anomalies, and acquired diseases such as dental decay, gingivitis and periodontitis.

Dental plaque, which is a mixture of food debris and oral bacteria, is often the root of acquired diseases. Regular brushing can help prevent build up.

But for children with disabilities, the risk of both congenital and acquired disease is much

higher. Their oral risks are also increased by difficulties maintaining oral care, long-term hospitalization, medication, frequent snacks and liquid diets.

It often takes three to four dentists to carry out an appointment with a child who suffers from a developmental disability. It can be a difficult process for both child and parent.

But there are ways to help ease the experience for everyone.

ORAL CARE FOR  
CHILDREN WITH  
DISABILITIES CAN BE  
A CHALLENGE, BUT  
IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR  
ENSURING THEIR  
OVERALL HEALTH.

First, routine checkups help improve the child's attitude towards the dentist.

In addition, familiarization with the space promotes a positive association towards dental treatments. Also, the child should be

comforted during visits. As a last resort, general anesthesia or restraints can be used.

It is also important to control their health through proper oral hygiene at home. This should be administered according to the child's needs.

Where possible, children should be instructed to brush their teeth in separate stages. Use of visual and audio data can be helpful in the teaching process. An electric toothbrush should be used if the child has difficulties with movement.

This can help ensure proper health care while promoting independence.

For children needing a higher level of support, two toothbrushes can be used. One can be placed on the opposite side for the child to bite down on.

And for children who are unable to spit, toothpaste with little to no fluoride is recommended.

Oral care for children with disabilities can be a major challenge, but it is essential for ensuring their overall health. Dentists and parents can work together to provide customized care that meets each child's specific needs. **GROOVE**

For further dentistry information or reservations, please call Ms. Aeri Jo, the English coordinator at Yonsei University Dental Hospital.

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See the corresponding map on page 30.

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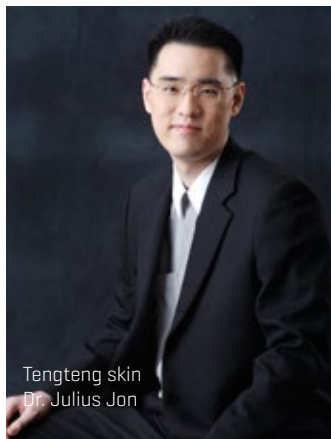
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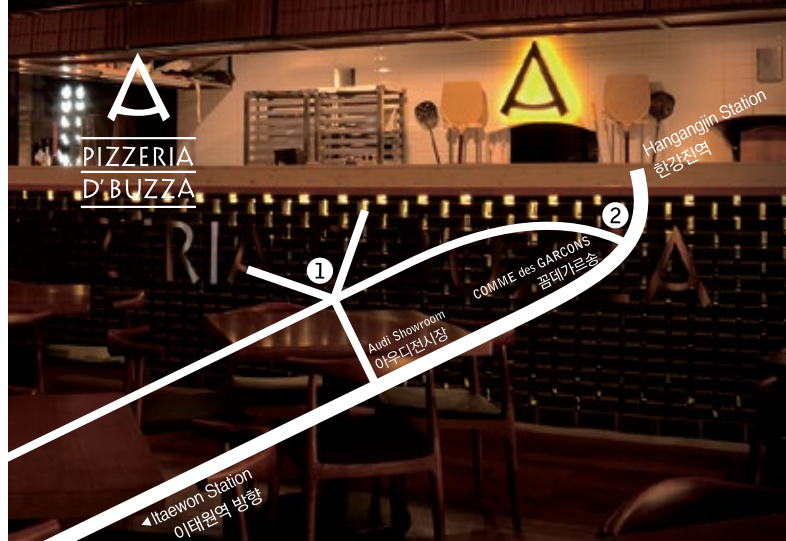
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See the corresponding map on page 30.

This museum has a program called 'Experiencing Royal Culture' designed for English teachers to help learn about Joseon royal culture.

### Seodaemun Museum of Natural History

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[02] 797-3698 • 34-16, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

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The menu at this traditional Korean restaurant ranges from classic kimchi pancakes and stone pot rice to an array of meats and veggies.

### Maple tree house

[02] 790-7977 • [Hamilton Hotel annex 2nd fl.] 116-1 Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

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**R9 Pizzeria D'Buzza**

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Vera Pizza Napoli

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Hongik Univ. station Line2 Exit8

See the corresponding map on page 30.

### Ben's Cookies

[02] 556-3275 • 124-9, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul  
Cookies from the U.K. The best chocolate, unsalted butter, sugar, free range eggs you'll find in Korea.



Ben's Cookies

### DAEGU

#### G'day [American & Brunch]

053-746-1217 • 980-9  
Suseongdong 4-ga, Suseong-gu, Daegu  
This Aussie brunch cafe serves the best brunch in Daegu at the best price. [www.facebook.com/CafeGday](http://www.facebook.com/CafeGday)

#### The Paris [Italian & French]

[053] 763-8998 • 207-10 Doosan-dong, Suseong-gu, Daegu  
This place offers fine dining in one of the few authentic French restaurants in town.

#### Dos Tacos [Mexican & TEX-MEX]

[053] 255-4885 • 34-4 Dongsung-ro 2-ga, Jung-gu, Daegu

#### PAN Asia [International]

[053] 287-7940 • 2 fl., 21-9 Samdeok-dong, Jung-gu, Daegu

#### South st. [American]

[053] 471-7867 • 664-10 Bongdeok 3-dong, Nam-gu, Daegu

#### Bagel Doctor [Café]

[053] 421-6636 • Samdeokdong 2-ga, Jung-gu, Daegu

#### Miyako [Japanese]

(053) 761-5555 • 402-5 Sang-dong, Suseong-gu, Daegu

#### Beyond Factory [Italian/café]

[053] 255-7614 • 40-63 Daebong-dong, Jung-gu, Daegu

#### La Luce [European]

[053] 255-7614 • 40-63 Daebong-dong, Jung-gu, Daegu

### BUSAN

#### Rock N Roll [Bar]

• 2 fl, 56-5, Daeyeon 3-dong, Nam-gu, Busan

#### Wolfhound [Irish Pub]

[051] 746-7913 • 2 fl, 1359, U

1-dong, Haeundae-gu, Busan

#### Fuzzy Navel [Mexican Pub]

[051] 754-6349 • 178-13, Millak-dong, Suyeong-gu, Busan

#### Farmer's Hamburger [American]

[051] 244-5706 • 35-1 Daechungdong 2-ga, Jung-gu, Busan

#### The Pho [Vietnamese]

[051] 256-8055 • Saeabusan town, Sinchangdong 1-ga, Jung-gu, Busan

### DRINKS

#### BEER

##### 01 Craftworks taphouse

010-7666-1588 • 238, Noksapyeong-daero, Yongsan-gu, Seoul  
The first expat-owned microbrewery in Korea still offers some of the best brews around. Try out their seasonal tastes in a warm and inviting ambience.

#### Magpie

[02] 549-7778 • 691, Itaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

##### 02 Reilly's taphouse

[02] 792-6590 • 3 floor, 123-32, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul  
Reilly's Taphouse boasts some 20 draft beers and is committed to carrying the best craft brews from Korea and around the world.



Reilly's taphouse

##### 03 3 Alley pub

[02] 749-3336 • 116-15, Itwaewon-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

#### Big Rock

[02] 539-6650 • B1 818-8, Yeoksam 1-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul  
This place imports premium beer from Alberta. Its comfortable atmosphere and huge space is perfect for just about every occasion.

##### 04 Wolfhound [Itaewon]

[02] 749-7971 • Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul, Korea

#### Wolfhound [Haeundae, Busan]

[051] 746-7913 • 1359 Waa 1-dong,

Haeundae-gu, Busan

### COCKTAIL & WINE

#### Between

[02] 795-6164 • 124-7, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

##### 05 Noxa

[02] 790-1334 • 671, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul  
This cozy neighborhood hangout in Itaewon specializes in cocktails and tapas. Check out DOJO, a downstairs bar with huge variety of alcohol on offer.



Noxa

#### B1

[02] 749-6164 • 119-7, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

#### Prost

[02] 796-6854 • 116-1, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

#### 5th Lounge

[053] 764-3579 • 207-10 Doosan-dong, Suseong-gu, Daegu  
This fabulous lounge does just about everything right. If you're in search for space for private parties, this is the place.

#### Once in a blue moon

[02] 549.5490 • 85-1 Chungdam-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul  
A live jazz club Seoul that hosts international renowned musicians from Korea and around the world.

### SOJU/MAKEOLI

#### Mowmow

070-4078-8862 • 118-71, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

##### 06 Jeon [전]

070-8749-5004 • 118-18, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

### SAKE

##### 07 Yuda

[02] 388-5081 • 683-126, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

##### 08 Muntaro

[02] 796-7232 • 683-124, Hannam-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul

### NIGHTCLUBS

#### Octagon

• 175-2 Nonhyeon-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul

#### Vera

• 356-1 Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul

#### Cocoon

• 364-26 Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul

#### NB

• 362-4 Seogyo-dong, Mapo-gu, Seoul

#### Eden

• Ritz Carlton 602 Yeoksam-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul

#### Elune

• 1408-5 Jung 1-dong, Haeundae-gu, Busan

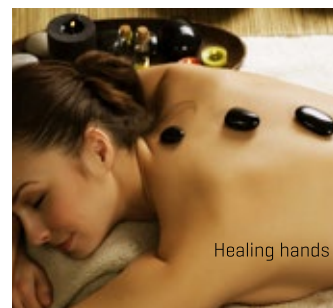
#### Mass

• 1306-8 Seocho 4-dong, Seocho-gu, Seoul

### MASSAGE, SPA & BEAUTY

##### A1 Healing hands

070-7504-8090 • 3 floor 124-7, Itaewon 1-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul  
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Healing hands

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"In the last few years, our ethically sourced products have grown 80-90 percent, which is a reflection of our customers' growing awareness for fair trade coffee. We are committed to supporting our farmers and suppliers, and to developing sustainable products,"

**KIM JIN-JUNG, THE CATEGORY DIRECTOR AT STARBUCKS**



## ETHICALLY SOURCED COFFEE



MAKING A HOLISTIC APPROACH USING RESPONSIBLE PURCHASING PRACTICES

To mark World Fair Trade Day on May 11, Starbucks Korea hosted various events from May 7 until May 13. During the period, Starbucks' Today's Coffee was Italian Roast, fair trade certified coffee beans at 510 stores in Korea.

During the event, Starbucks aimed to raise 5 million won by selling chocolates and the fair trade certified beans for coffee bean farmers and suppliers through the Fairtrade Labeling Organizations International (FLO).

"In the last few years, our ethically sourced products have grown 80-90 percent, which is a reflection of our customers' growing awareness for fair trade coffee. We are committed to supporting our farmers and suppliers, and to developing sustainable products," stated Kim Jin-jung, the category director at Starbucks.

Starbucks participated in the 2013 Big Fairtrade Breakfast event at Garosugil, which was hosted by the FLO on May 9. Starbucks gave away free trade certified coffee and chocolates to visitors for their experience.

Starbucks is the world's largest purchaser of fair trade certified coffee beans. It has purchased 509 million pounds through C.A.F.E (Coffee and Farmer Equity) Practice, making up 93 percent of its total coffee bean purchases in 2012. Starbucks aims to source 100 percent of its coffee this way by 2015.

Starbucks Korea has marked Fair Trade Week in May and Fair Trade Month in October since 2005 by sponsoring many events in support of children in Indonesia, Ethiopia, Guatemala and coffee farmers around the world with World Vision, UNICEF and the FLO.



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# A CHANGING ILSAN

"There's a shrinking strip of relatively unadulterated boonies between Ilsan and the Han River. As far back as 2011, though, I started to see that Ilsan's master blueprint was only half-realized. I make a point to stroll out there every so often to witness Ilsan's cutting edge slice away at the vintage."

Photos by Jesse Lord







TURN TO LANDSCAPE VIEW

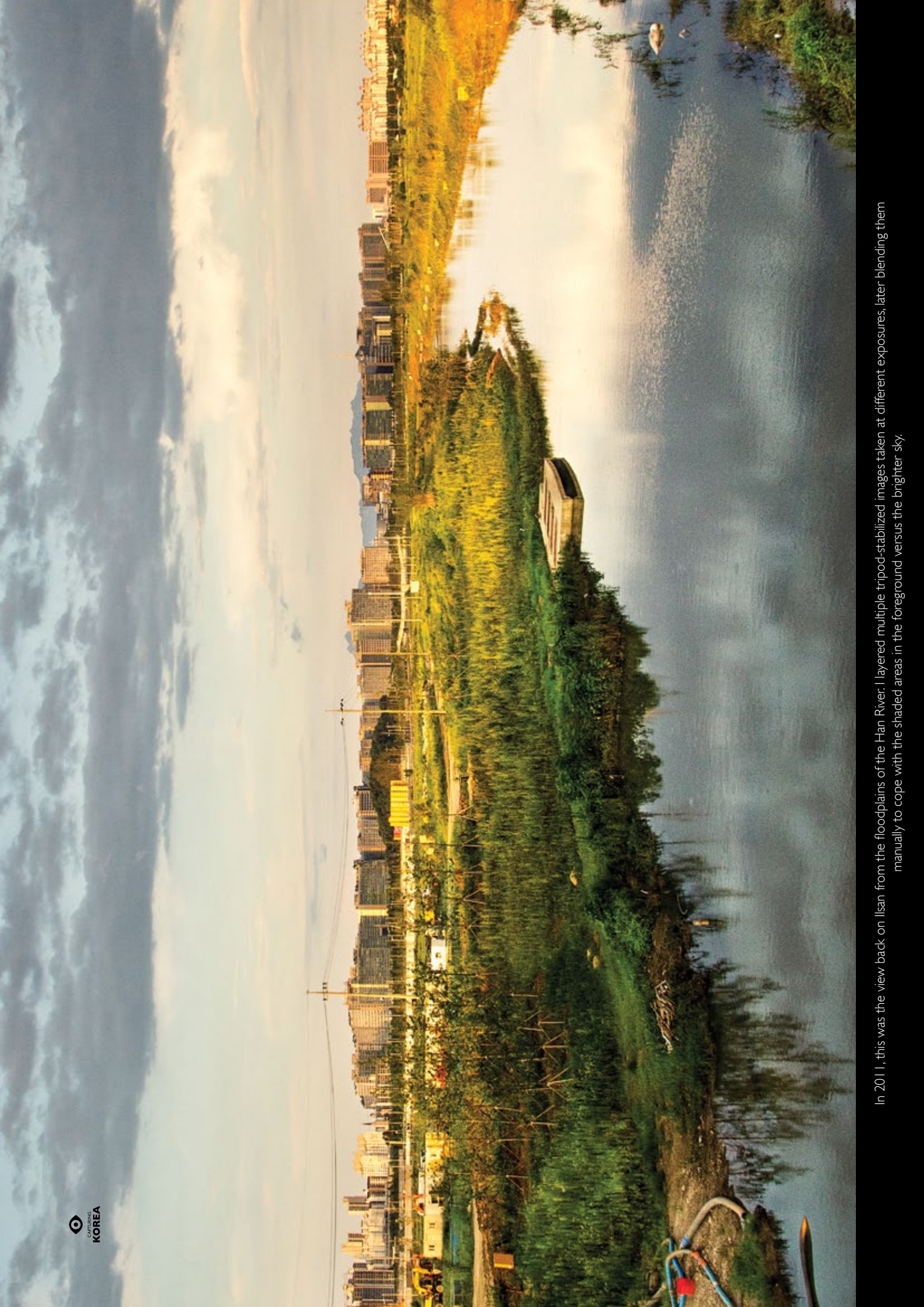
This was taken from the top of Jeongbalsan Park towards the city's first true skyscrapers, some 5 kilometers distant. The towers mark the edge of progress at the far end of town, and I chose a mid-telephoto focal length to balance them with the closer elements in the composition.





The Gyeongui Line once spanned from Seoul up to Sinuiju, along the border with China. This was the original path along which Ilseon sprang into being. Forty-plus frames are stitched together here to accomplish a fairly wide-angle view without distorting the lines.





In 2011, this was the view back on Ilsan from the floodplains of the Han River. I layered multiple tripod-stabilized images taken at different exposures, later blending them manually to cope with the shaded areas in the foreground versus the brighter sky.



# ILSAN

## THE CAPITAL'S OFFSPRING

Interview by Dylan Goldby / Portrait by Glenn Sundeen



"I'm a guy in his late 20s who spent his first childhood in the United States and Russia and second childhood in Japan and South Korea." — Jesse Lord

● Jesse Lord is an American photographer in Ilsan, a part of Goyang City. He's been there long enough to witness its development into one of Korea's most modern and livable urban centers.

A patchwork of rice paddies and villages just two decades ago, Goyang City is now home to over 1 million people. Ilsan is a centrally planned district that has a generous amount of green space, including the largest man-made lake in Asia.

While Ilsan is still developing, remnants of the Ilsan of old are still visible — if you know where to look.

Lord does. He spends most of his time capturing the city's changing dynamic from a deruralization point of view. Dylan Goldby sat down with Lord to talk about his modos operandi, Ilsan's development and the subtle art of night photography.

### Groove Korea: You've been in Ilsan long enough to call it your hometown. What makes Ilsan so special?

Jesse Lord: Look at the town from above or on a map and it starts to make sense that it was conceived during the Sim City era. You'll find a grid layout with an even sprinkling of commercial, residential and park districts. Special attention has been given to ease of transport with rail and express buses linking directly into Seoul's various centers and other satellite towns.

### What is the biggest change you've seen in your time there?

There's a shrinking strip of relatively unadulterated boonies between Ilsan and the Han River. I used to do a lot of walking out there. People would look at me as if I were the first foreigner they'd ever laid eyes upon. I first presumed that this buffer area between town and the river would remain untouched by the high and mighty urban planners. As far back as 2011, though,

I started to see that Ilsan's master blueprint was only half-realized. I make a point to stroll out there every so often to witness Ilsan's cutting edge slice away at the vintage.

### Outside of the "changing Ilsan," what is your favorite place to photograph there?

Neighborhoods of two- to four-story villas make up certain patches of the urban quilt work. Although they may not be lit very brightly at night, they are amongst my favorite places to photograph once the sun is down. Everything is done at a local scale here, whether it be small auto-repair shops, local cafés, restaurants or taekwondo schools. People you find in these areas generally aren't hurrying through, and it's a good place to find natural slices of life. Taking my time exploring these neighborhoods has really helped to hone my photographic eye.

### Tell us a little about Jesse, the man and the photographer.

I'm a guy in his late 20s who spent his first childhood in the United States and Russia and second childhood in Japan and South Korea. In all seriousness, however, I developed wanderlust at an early age. Perhaps it's traceable to one day at age 4 when I wandered away from my parents during a visit to Mexico and fell upon the graces of a local family who took me in for dinner and an attempt at conversation.

About 20 years later, I found myself wandering the streets of South Korea in a similar fashion, and it was in 2009 that I decided I wanted to preserve for others the images of both my dreams and my reality through photography.

GROOVE

#### Getting to Ilsan by train

Take the subway to Ilsan Station on the Gyeonghui Line. Approx. 1,300 won

#### Getting to Ilsan by bus

Board the 2100 or 2200 buses at various points in central and northern Seoul and disembark in Ilsan. 1,300 won



## Club Med

Resort to open in Guilin, China

Guilin, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is famous for its breathtaking scenery. Towering karsts rise above the picturesque landscape, making Guilin the perfect location to discover China's natural beauty. Club Med is a new resort in the area and in honor of their grand opening they are offering a special travel package. The package starts at 1.2 million won for adults and 950,000 won for children aged 4-11

For more information visit [www.clubmed.co.kr](http://www.clubmed.co.kr), or call (02) 3452-0123.



## Grand Hilton

BBQ and Malaysian cultural event

From June 3-16, the Grand Hilton Seoul will be hosting an American grill and Malaysian cultural event. There will be a BBQ menu including beef, lamb, chicken, sausages and seafood. There will also be an array of refreshing beverages. For entertainment the Buffet Restaurant will play host to a Malaysian cultural performance. The performance will run the week of June 3. As a bonus there will be a draw; the prize includes airfare to Malaysia and a voucher for two nights / three days accommodation.

For more information and reservations contact Buffet Restaurant (02) 2287-8271.

## Sheraton Grande Walkerhill

Poolside buffet and bar

The Sheraton Grande Walkerhill is celebrating its 50th anniversary. In celebration of the event they will be revealing their newly renovated swimming pool RiverPark. There will be an expertly prepared poolside buffet and the pool bar will be offering an assortment of fizzy drinks. You can also enjoy the adult pool and relax in the Jacuzzi. The price ranges from 40,000 won to 150,000 won per person, including taxes. Summer packages are also available for guests wishing to spend the night.

For more information contact (02) 455-5000.



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## JW Marriott

Culinary Art @ JW

In June, JW Marriott will be serving gourmet dishes prepared by 10 top international chefs. Hailing from Japan, France, Italy, China, India and Thailand these world-renowned chefs will be participating in Culinary Art @ JW. The talent includes Michelin star holder Chef Christophe and double Michelin star holder Chef Takafi. Stop by for a spectacular array of international cuisine.

For more information contact (02) 6282-6262.



## Novotel Ambassador Gangnam

'Cherry and berry dessert buffet'

Novotel Ambassador will be holding a "cherry and berry dessert buffet" from May 25 to July 28 at Lobby Lounge. The event will occur alongside the popular strawberry dessert buffet. This promotion features tantalizing cherry and berry delights. The buffet is 35,000 won for adults and is available on weekends between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

For more information contact Lobby Lounge (02) 531-6611-2.

## Novotel Ambassador Busan

Healthy juice at Terrace Café

In June, Terrace Café will be holding a healthy juice promotion, which will keep you healthy and refreshed. There are six flavors of juice including cabbage apple, lemon apple, celery apple, paprika pear, pimento tomato, and ginseng blueberry. All are mixed with fresh ingredients. The price per drink is 10,000 won including taxes.

For more information contact Terrace Café (051) 662-6267.





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## Park Hyatt Seoul

Relax in style with spa package

Park Hyatt Seoul is offering luxury and relaxation with a personalized spa package. The package includes a one-night stay, 60-minute body massage, breakfast buffet at Cornerstone, Internet access, and entry to the fitness and swimming facilities. The price is 725,000 won for two.

For more information contact room reservations (02) 2016-1100 or guest services (02) 2016-1234. [www.seoul.park.hyatt.com](http://www.seoul.park.hyatt.com) / [www.seoul.park.hyattrestaurants.com](http://www.seoul.park.hyattrestaurants.com)



## Park Hyatt Busan

Weekend brunch at the Park

The Living Room is a casual restaurant atop the Park Hyatt Busan, on the 31st floor. For 90,000 won for adults and 50,000 won for children, you can enjoy an appetizer buffet along with a signature main course. Courses include fresh seafood and premium cuts of meat.

For more information contact (051) 990-1300.

## W Seoul Walkerhill

Anti-aging blueberry facials

Away Spa at W Hotel Seoul is unveiling their unique spin on one of the world's healthiest foods. Time Magazine selected blueberries as one of the world's top 10 super foods, and Away Spa has created an anti-aging program focused on the antioxidant-rich fruit. The blueberry facial is a 70-minute treatment using VOSS sparkling water and a cup of Dr. Stuart's Blueberry and Acai Tea. The spa also offers a miniature set of Skin Ceuticals to all customers. The cost is 190,000 won.

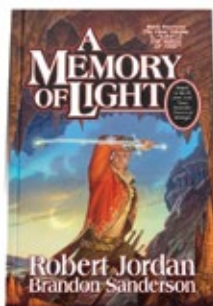
For more information contact (02) 2022 0450.



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# Comics

June 2013



## DEAR KOREA

Dear Korea...



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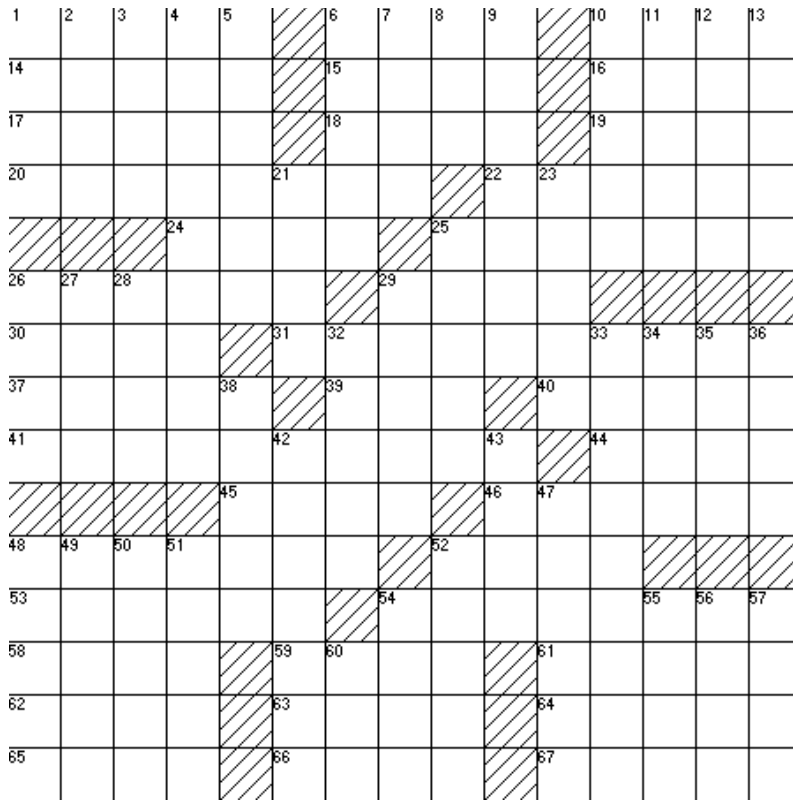
ALL UP IN YOUR BUSINESS. JEN LEE





# Games

Crosswords - Sudoku



## Across

- |   |                               |  |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Permit                                   | 25. Kinds or sorts            | 53. Personal magnetism and charm         |
| 6. Poop                                     | 26. Against                   | 54. Members of a protestant denomination |
| 10. Small horse                             | 29. Dampen or smear           | 58. Golfer ____ "The Shark" Norman       |
| 14. Instructional manual                    | 30. Member of the lily family | 59. Scoring A's (slang)                  |
| 15. Traditional form of Hindu music         | 31. Pertaining to Naples      | 61. City in Japan                        |
| 16. Plant with fleshy, spiny-toothed leaves | 37. Suspicious                | 62. Human works of beauty                |
| 17. Actor ____ Flynn                        | 39. Dried dung                | 63. Challenge                            |
| 18. At the pinnacle                         | 40. Silly                     | 64. Unsuitable                           |
| 19. Resourcefulness                         | 41. Antequates                | 65. Respite                              |
| 20. Without seams                           | 44. Trims                     | 66. Units of energy                      |
| 22. Disregard                               | 45. Ireland                   | 67. Model rocket company                 |
| 24. Snake-like fishes                       | 46. Caucasians                |  |
|   | 48. Preserves bodies          |  |
|   | 52. Sheep sounds              |  |

## Down

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Grows older                          | 25. Thicket or grove                             | 48. ____ Rice Burroughs                       |
| 2. Entice                               | 26. Young cow                                    | 49. Large auk                                 |
| 3. Italian currency                     | 27. Margarine                                    | 50. Dark red vegetables                       |
| 4. Devices that indicate distance       | 28. Multiple negative responses                  | 51. Feeling of anxiety                        |
| 5. "Robocop" actor Peter ____           | 29. Corn   | 52. Foundations                               |
| 6. Unfeeling                            | 32. Chieftains                                   | 54. South African term for "Mountain"         |
| 7. Rodents                              | 33. Cuts   | 55. 3 handed card game                        |
| 8. Gone by                              | 34. Tight  | 56. Small block of metal with a raised letter |
| 9. Genus of lepidopterous insects       | 35. Initial wager                                | 57. Chronic drunkards                         |
| 10. Chess pieces                        | 36. Loch ____ monster                            | 60. Automobile                                |
| 11. Heavily spiced stews                | 38. Concede                                      |   |
| 12. French for "Ours"                   | 42. Citrus drink                                 |   |
| 13. Affirmatives                        | 43. Exchange                                     |   |
| 21. Style                               | 47. Academy Award winning actress: ____ McDaniel |   |
| 23. Priests of Cybele (Greek mythology) |  |   |

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# Photo Challenge

This month's challenge: Spring



**Winner: Tri Nguyen**

Shot in: Seoul    Place: Korea University

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Compete in the Photo Challenge for a chance to win a 50,000 won voucher from Kasan Camera. Go to the Seoul Photo Club's website for more information.

[www.flickr.com/groups/seoulphotoclub](http://www.flickr.com/groups/seoulphotoclub)



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